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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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4 October 1994

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Crown Prince Hasan, Peres Hold Talks With Clinton

Discuss Peace Talks Progress

JN0310195894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1814 GMT 3 Oct 94

[Report by correspondent Hani al-Badri in Washington on 3 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the second day of his visit to the United States, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan met at the White House this morning with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The meeting was attended by members of the accompanying delegations and lasted approximately one hour. During the meeting, a comprehensive review of all phases of the peace process was made. This process began between Jordan and Israel by setting up a tripartite committee led by the United States at a White House meeting held last October. As a result of this committee, the U.S. role was activated, and the United States directly contributed to promoting the peace process between Jordan and Israel through the signing of the Washington Declaration by His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 25 July.

His Highness Prince Hasan and his delegation held a preliminary meeting with Peres in New York. In his speech following the White House meeting, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan stressed that peace resides in the hearts of individuals and not only in the minds of rulers, and that the fruits of peace should reach the citizens in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Prince Hasan Speaks Following Talks

JN0310165294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1457 GMT 3 Oct 94

[Speech by Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan following the tripartite meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the White House—live, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. President, Foreign Minister Peres: If you will forgive me for starting my statement by quoting from the mission of the ethics of the fathers: The world is sustained by three things: By truth, by justice, and by peace.

I feel that in the spirit of our discussions that we have had truthful, and frank, and candid discussions, both here today, as on the occasion that we met last year to launch the Trilateral Committee. I come, of course, from the meetings in al-'Aqabah, where those meetings were characterized by a truthful search for peace built on justice. And I would like to say that I come here in a mood of optimism that the work that we have commenced is a work that is going to live up to the hopes and aspirations of our peoples for a breakthrough for the future of both our peoples, and for the peoples of the region.

Our negotiators have made progress that would have amazed us a year ago. We have moved the talks to our region. We've agreed upon principles and modalities to resolve the outstanding issues. And today, we are undertaking joint projects. We have implemented this vision in the confidence-building context of the most concrete kind. And at last, at long last, the leaders of our countries have met face to face and signed the Washington Declaration.

As we move ever further in our voyage towards peace, we witness the rebirth of the Middle East as a region, as a community, and as a part of the international community of states.

Foreign Minister Peres, you have spoken eloquently of your vision for the future of our region to the vision that we share. Now, we must eliminate the barriers that create obstacles to its realization. We must work to resolve all outstanding bilateral issues, giving relations between our countries a solid, equitable, and sustainable basis.

Over the past two days, we have discussed a range of ideas to that end; and I am confident that we will rise together to the challenges, and that we will go on to make good the promise of peace. Millions in the Middle East are watching us today. They know where true peace resides. It is ultimately not in the hands of governments, but in the hearts of individuals, who will participate in true peace. The time has come for the peoples of the Middle East to gain a stake in peace, to partake of its fruits without discrimination, without exclusion. In Casablanca at the end of this month, let us advance together toward that goal.

Mr. President, the involvement of the United States gives us great hope. Your support, and that of American presidents throughout the years, is cherished in my country. It was President Woodrow Wilson who proclaimed the need for—and I quote—open covenants of peace, openly arrived at. It has been a long journey. We have yet to arrive at our destination. But, with God's help, the (?farthest draw) is now in sight.

Thank you, gentlemen.

Peres Makes Statement

TA0310161494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1458 GMT 3 Oct 94

[Speech by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres following the tripartite meeting with U.S. President Clinton and Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan at the White House—live, in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. President, Your Royal Highness: I would like to thank, first of all, the American people; its institutions; its leader, President Bill Clinton, for taking one of the most complicated issues—a region of problems and wars—and creating a region of hope and promise. If we shall succeed in our endeavors, as I do believe we shall, it may serve as a model to many other places.

The Middle East was a complex place for three basic reasons: The conflict was unprecedented, deep, full of emotion, and full of military strength and confrontation. Secondly, the number of participants in this conflict was large and varied and different. And, thirdly, it was basically a military and political conflict rather than an economic cooperation and social outlook.

May I say, Mr. President, that over the last year, everything has changed completely. A year ago, we were standing here, when the President, our Prime Minister Rabin, and King Husayn [as heard], and Chairman 'Arafat agreed to start to solve the very complicated issue with the Palestinians. Today, Mr. President, it is a reality. Later on, there was the meeting again here between the Jordanian leaders and the Israeli leaders and the President, and what then was the Washington Declaration today again is a vivid progress of cooperation for the benefit of all of our people.

Then again, the Arab boycott that has accompanied the Arab political boycott is disappearing, very much because of the work of Secretary Christopher, for whom I would like to express my thanks. And in the meantime, some other events took place. We have agreed to open relations with Morocco, to open relations with Tunisia. It is not the end of the story or the end of the day, and there is his royal highness' promise we are going to meet in Casablanca for a most unusual attempt to combine private enterprise and governmental responsibility to promote the standard of living of all the people in the Middle East. In between our two countries, we are going to take parts of the desert and convert it into valleys of peace, of agriculture, of tourism.

A year ago, when we started, many people thought that we were looking for photo opportunities. Today, we can say we had attained not a photo opportunity but a deep and moving change in human experience in the last part of the 20th century. I want to express my hope to the President and his team, the American Congress, the American people will continue to do a job that really calls for a salute and appreciation. Thank you very much.

'Text' of Joint Statement

JN0410092494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Oct 94

["Text" of joint Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli statement issued in Washington on 3 October—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. U.S. President Bill Clinton met at the White House with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to pursue the common purpose of creating a new era of peace in the Middle East.

2. Jordan and Israel reaffirmed the five principles on which an understanding was reached in accordance with the common agenda. They commenced work by the first trilateral meeting, convened by President Bill Clinton one year ago in Washington, establishing a Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli trilateral economic committee. The committee created new momentum which led to the first ministerial-level trilateral meeting in the Dead Sea area in Jordan, to the opening of the al-'Aqabah-Elat border crossing, and to the 25 July 1994 Washington Declaration ending the state of war between Jordan and Israel.

3. His Royal Highness Prince Hasan and Foreign Minister Peres outlined to President Clinton the tangible progress that was recently made in al-'Aqabah in the bilateral negotiations between Jordan and Israel, and reaffirmed their commitment to what was enshrined in the Washington Declaration signed by His Majesty King Husayn, President Clinton, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to achieve a full peace treaty between the two sides, hopefully in the near future.

The progress made in the bilateral and trilateral talks is also based on a shared view of the need to establish comprehensive peace in the region. In this context, the three leaders believe in the importance of gradual implementation of regional cooperation that would address in a balanced manner the basic economic and social needs of the peoples of the region such as struggle against unemployment and poverty, and development of human resources. This will lead to the development of a comprehensive regional security concept. This will also require the building of regional institutions based on multilateral working groups, leading to the possible development of the concept of a conference on security and cooperation in the Middle East. The three leaders called upon regional and non-regional parties to participate in the exploration of these concepts and targets to create a new Middle East.

4. To implement further the provisions contained in the Washington Declaration, issued on 25 July 1994, the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli trilateral economic committee announced agreement on:

A. The finalization of the terms of reference for the Jordan Rift Valley Joint Master Plan that portrays an integrated concept for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley and entails a wide variety of economic projects that are of mutual benefit to the two sides, as well as other parties in the region.

B. The importance of the Middle East and North Africa economic summit, which will be held in Casablanca from 30 October to 1 November. In this context, it is important to highlight the work of the trilateral committee, including joint projects, business and investment opportunities, and the promotion of partnership between public and private sectors. The trilateral committee favors the establishment of a continuous mechanism to promote the investment of the private sector and to develop necessary strategies for regional economic development, in conjunction with the Regional Economic Development Working Group [REDWG] of the multilateral peace process. The three sides will coordinate on preparations for economic summits within the trilateral framework.

C. Regarding the importance of economic development, the three sides believe it is essential to pursue and explore the creation of a regional organization for economic development and creation of a multilateral financing mechanism. These concepts will be further developed in the upcoming meeting of the REDWG Monitoring Committee and in the Casablanca conference.

D. In order to encourage economic progress resulting from the ongoing peace process, it was decided:

1. To address ways in which the United States can assist Jordan's economic development by encouraging private investment, developing business, and promoting bilateral trade during the upcoming U.S.-Jordan bilateral commission meeting.

2. To explore the creation of a cooperative free trade zone in al-'Aqabah and Elat, based on the principle of free flow of goods between Jordan and Israel during the upcoming expert-level meeting in Israel from 10-13 October and in Jordan from 17-20 October 1994.

3. To exchange selective delegations in the economic field between industrialists, bankers, heads of chambers of commerce and economic media leaders.

E. Regarding tourism as a major component of economic development, it was agreed:

1. To complete the construction by 15 October 1994 of the northern border crossing point for third country nationals.

2. To establish a Red Sea marine peace park with the help of a grant from a special fund of the U.S. State Department's Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Bureau.

3. The trilateral economic committee also agreed to promote Jordan and Israel as a joint tourism destination, citing coopertation between Jordan and Israel in a Middle East tourism workshop in Cairo from 28-29 September, the Lisbon conference of the American Society of Travel Agents from 9-12 November, and the January-February [1995] peace trips for U.S. and international tourism and travel sector representatives and the news media, including representatives of Jordan and Israel.

4. The northern border crossing point for third country nationals, the Red Sea marine peace park, and the inclusion of tourism in the master plan to develop the Jordan Rift Valley will enhance the appeal of Jordan and Israel as a joint tourism destination, in addition to the al-'Aqabah-Elat southern crossing point and the Dead Sea region, the lowest point on earth.

5. The establishment of an al-'Aqabah-Elat free tourism zone, where citizens of Jordan and Israel can visit, in addition to third country nationals.

F. Water resources:

1. Based on the necessity to develop new and alternative water resources on a regional scale, the trilateral committee will develop the terms of reference of a plan to conduct relevant feasibility studies.

2. Jordan and Israel will pursue in common financing of the dams as agreed upon in the recent al-'Aqabah talks.

3. Under the auspices of the trilateral economic committee, and with technical assistance and support from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency and the U.S. private sector, a symposium on the Red Sea-Dead Sea canal proposal will be hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in conjunction with the Israeli Government.

Peres Comments on State of Talks With Jorda

TA0310200194 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Washington by Ya'aqov Eylon and Micky Haimovitz—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Eylon] Good evening, at least by Israeli time, Mr. Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Eylon] We would like to hear from you the bottom line of the agreements reached with Jordan. For instance, will Israeli citizens who do not hold foreign passports be able to visit al-'Aqabah soon?

[Peres] Yes.

[Eylon] How soon?

[Peres] What was concluded today, in fact, makes the issue of the date no more than a technicality. I cannot, however, tell you whether it is two days or two weeks. I do not know.

[Eylon] Can you tell us, Mr Peres, what else is holding up the signing of a full peace treaty between Israel and Jordan?

[Peres] Two issues: One concerns solving the border problem, and the second concerns solving the water problem. As for the borders, very serious negotiations began at the meeting between the prime minister and the

Jordanian king. As for the water issue, I think we have laid the foundations for solving this problem.

[Eylon] Can you elaborate?

[Peres] Yes. The Jordanians are greatly distressed by this issue. They would have liked Israel to give up quantities of its water, but Israel, too, does not have a surplus of water. The real solution, therefore, is to produce water. In this regard, we are looking at two time frames. The grand plans involving tunnels, canals, etc. will take between eight and 10 years to accomplish, and it is impossible to put off the peace problem between us and Jordan for such a long time. Therefore, we looked for a short-range alternative that can be accomplished within approximately two years. At the meeting in al-'Aqabah, as well as in our later meetings, it transpired that there are two solutions involving erecting dams in the north and perhaps also in the south, dams that can collect about 100 million or perhaps a little more—120 million—cubic feet of water. This requires an estimated investment of $70-100 million. Therefore, on one hand, we decided to undertake the short-range project of producing water at once. On the other hand, we agreed to set up an Israeli-Jordanian team that will be in contact with the World Bank regarding the long-range project.

[Haimovitz] Mr. Peres, regarding the lifting of the Arab boycott, this week we heard that the five Persian Gulf states are lifting the indirect Arab boycott. Why does Jordan not join in lifting this boycott?

[Peres] Jordan is definitely taking part. I can note three points here: First, the official announcement released by the White House states that there will be a free flow of goods in both directions, which means an end to the boycott in practice. Second, the Casablanca conference means the opposite of the Arab boycott; it means cooperation between us and the Arabs. Third, the Jordanian crown prince publicly declared that what the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia announced pales in comparison with the actual Egyptian [as heard] position, which does not attribute importance to the secondary and tertiary boycott in practice.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 2 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 3 October carries recorded remarks by Foreign Minister Peres following his speech at the White House today. Noting that without Warren Christopher's arrival, it is doubtful whether progress can be made in the talks with Syria, Peres says he believes "the Syrian president has decided on peace but continues to be afraid that he will receive too low a price for it. This is a mistake. Peace itself bears such a high value that he, too, should make the necessary concessions."]

New Round of Israeli-Palestinian Talks Starts

Gaza, West Bank Elections Discussed

NC0310104894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—A new round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations began here this morning. The talks are focusing principally on setting the date for the Palestinian legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestinian side is led by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, local government minister in the Palestinian National Authority, and the Israeli side by General Dani Rothschild, general coordinator of occupied territories affairs. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat Views Talks With Rothschild

NC0310141694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with the Israelis on the legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza, stressed that the Palestinian stance on the nature of the Palestinian legislative council is clear and that we have set it out in the papers we presented to the Israeli side.

In statements he made following the bilateral talks he held today with General Dani Rothschild, general coordinator of territories affairs and head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, Dr. 'Urayqat said that the Palestinian stance is based on the Declaration of Principles and that what is now proposed is the final form of the phased agreement. He added that this round of talks continues the negotiations held in Washington, which resumed at the Erez crossing point in Gaza, where the Palestinian delegation presented detailed papers about the elections.

'Urayqat stressed that the issue of the elections cannot be isolated from the redeployment of the Israeli forces outside the inhabited area in the West Bank and that elections cannot be discussed until every law has been reviewed.

The spokeswoman for the Israeli delegation said earlier today that this round of talks would focus on the civilian side of the elections and would not touch on redeployment in the West Bank. She explained this is a "security issue" that is not within the jurisdiction of this negotiating committee.

Dr. 'Urayqat called for setting up two committees, one in charge of redeployment and the other reviewing laws. We are discussing parallel rather than consecutive negotiations, he said, adding: Our goal is to fully implement the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington in September 1993.

The chairman of the Palestinian delegation noted that he agreed with General Dani Rothschild on the course of negotiations and on holding two meetings every day in the morning and evening until Wednesday.

The Israeli and Palestinian sides will resume their negotiations at 1500 today.

Rothschild's Spokeswoman Comments

NC0310180394 Paris AFP in English 1702 GMT 3 Oct 94

[By Mona Salem]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 3 (AFP)—Talks between Israel and the PLO on staging Palestinian self-rule elections stumbled Monday [3 October] as Israeli negotiators refused to discuss an army withdrawal from the West Bank.

"I can state that this week's negotiations will focus only on the modalities of elections" to a Palestinian autonomy council, said Hannie Jeshurun, spokeswoman for Israeli delegation chief Dani Rothschild.

"He (Rothschild) has been mandated only to discuss the elections," she added.

The PLO insists the Israeli army must redeploy from Palestinian population centres on the West Bank before elections to a Palestinian council take place.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, said the issue of elections and army redeployment should be treated simultaneously.

"The interim (autonomy) agreement is not concerned only with elections," 'Urayqat said.

"For the elections to take place the Israelis will have to redeploy their forces from the populated areas of the West Bank. We suggested that we negotiate in a parallel approach, rather than a sequential approach."

Talks on elections began at a Cairo hotel on Monday and are to end Wednesday. Rothschild and 'Urayqat, also local government "minister", set an agenda Monday morning.

'Urayqat said he also wanted the negotiations to take on the issue of Israel's military regulations, issued since the West Bank was occupied in 1967.

Under the Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles signed last year the Israeli army is to pull back from Palestinian towns on the West Bank by the eve of polling for a self-rule council, originally scheduled for July.

It also provides for a joint review by the two sides of laws and regulations issued by the Israeli military administration in the occupied territories.

Israel and the PLO have yet to reach agreement on the modalities of the elections including a date and the size and powers of the council that will emerge.

'Urayqat, who is overseeing the election organisation, has handed Israel a document calling for a parliament based in East Jerusalem with 100 members and wide powers of legislation.

However, Israel foresees a 20-member autonomy council in one of the self-rule zones and powers to enact only secondary legislation.

The wrangling is expected to spell further delays for the elections which PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat wants staged by November 1.

'Urayqat said the PLO was aiming for elections before the end of the year. "The election will make or break the interim agreement," he added.

But Jeshurun said: "There are many problems to discuss, we hope the talks will go as quickly as possible. But we cannot set a date for the conclusion of an accord."

Both sides have blamed each other for the delays to the extension of Palestinian self-rule, which was launched in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May.

"Israel means to hold up the elections," "Urayqat told Egypt's Middle East News Agency as he went into the talks.

Israeli chief-of-staff Ehud Baraq said last week the army would not pull out of any Palestinian towns until the security of Israeli settlers could be guaranteed.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Views Boycott, UNGA Activity

NC0410093494 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 4 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in New York, by correspondent Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs radio.

['Abd-al-Majid] Good morning.

[Abu-al-Majd] During the UN General Assembly [UNGA] session you met several foreign ministers and the UN secretary general. We would like you to brief us on your activities and on the outcome of your contacts.

['Abd-al-Majid] Every year the UNGA session provides an opportunity for the Arab foreign ministers to meet among themselves and to meet other non-Arab foreign ministers. In my view the most important meeting was that among the Arab foreign ministers to discuss all the issues relating to the Middle East submitted to the UNGA, including the peace process, Jerusalem, the Lockerbie issue, and Somalia. The Arab foreign ministers made decisions to promote these issues. It was decided to form a committee of several Arab countries to discuss possible alterations to the UNGA resolutions to cope with developments in recent years. Regarding the Lockerbie crisis, the seven-member committee met and asked me to contact the countries concerned and the UN secretary general. I met Dr. Butrus-Ghali and discussed this issue. We will continue to follow up on this issue so that we may reach a solution to this crisis. We will do all we can to show flexibility and preparedness [words indistinct].

[Abu-al-Majd] Regarding the demand that Israel reconsider its stance and that particular resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict be abolished, how did you address this issue and what was the reaction inside the United Nations, especially that of the Western nations?

['Abd-al-Majid] It is not an issue of abrogating resolutions. Some important developments have occurred in the Arab and international arenas. So it is only natural that the Arab group should cope with these developments without infringing the constants or principles, that is, we will not alter a resolution on Jerusalem, for example. This is obvious; we will not change a resolution on withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. These constants cannot be changed until a fair and comprehensive solution is achieved. We were also anxious to demonstrate that the Arab League was the first to support the peace process when it passed Resolution 5092 in September 1991 before the Madrid Conference. This resolution, which was approved by the Arab foreign ministers at their meeting in Cairo, emphasized that the peace process must be backed. All these issues should be presented to the current UNGA session so that the world can see that the Arab countries indeed seek a fair and comprehensive peace. Israel must respond and cross any hurdles on the road to peace, be it with the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, or Lebanese parties. We discussed these issues without delving into details. But a committee will be formed to review the resolutions, maintain the constants, and then introduce any alterations consistent with the current situation.

[Abu-al-Majd] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries have abolished the secondary and tertiary boycotts of Israel. Was this coordinated with the Arab League, especially as the declaration followed the GCC foreign ministers' meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher ahead of his next tour of the region?

['Abd-al-Majid] This issue was not broached at Saturday's session. The GCC statement noted that this issue will be submitted to the Arab League Council for it to make a decision.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you consider this development appropriate at this time?

['Abd-al-Majid] No doubt the GCC countries have a right to make a decision on an indirect boycott. Every sovereign nation has a right to make its own decisions. Since the boycott issue is placed on the Arab League agenda, the GCC countries said they will submit it to the Arab League Council. This is a sound approach.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the value of submitting this issue after a decision has already been made on it?

['Abd-al-Majid] The decision is clear and depends on submission to the Arab League Council.

[Abu-al-Majd] Is there anything new regarding the Arab issues at the UNGA session?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab issues are well known. We defend Arab rights and adhere to our position regarding security, stability, and a fair and comprehensive peace.

[Abu-al-Majd] Regarding the issue of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and removal of these weapons from the Middle East, the agreement on this issue was supposed to be extended. What did the Arab foreign ministers decide on this issue?

['Abd-al-Majid] This is a very important issue. The aforementioned committee will discuss it.

Official Says Arab Boycott of Israel Still in Force

NC0210153594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—The Arab League asserted today that the Arab boycott of Israel is still in force because it was imposed by a resolution from the League Council and ending it depends on the League Council.

Counselor Tal'at Hamid, press adviser to the Arab League secretary general, explained that ending the boycott is a matter that the League Council can decide upon in two cases. The first is if a member state requests the issue to be placed on the Council's agenda in a future ordinary session. The second is if the Council holds an extraordinary session at a request from two member states within a month from the date the request reaches the Arab League secretary general.

He said that it is the League Council that has the full authority in this issue and thus the Arab boycott is in force as long as the Council has not decided to take measures to end the boycott.

He emphasized that the Arab boycott of Israel is closely linked with achieving a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the Middle East based on the principle of land for peace and on the commitment to implementing Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially Resolutions 242, 338, 425, and 252 that stipulate Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

He said the Arab countries, represented by the League Council, adopted their Resolution 5092 in September 1991 welcoming the peace efforts in the Middle East.

He added that the Arab League Council stressed in its regular session that a durable peace must be comprehensive and fair and must be based on Security Council and international legitimacy resolutions.

Jordan's al-Hasan Praises Arab Ministerial Meeting

JN0210113794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab foreign ministers held a meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York under Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, [Jordanian] minister of state for foreign affairs, chairman of the 102d Arab League session. The meeting dealt with various issues of concern to the Arab states which will be discussed within the current UN General Assembly session.

Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has spoken to our radio about the meeting:

[Begin al-Hasan recording] The ministers reviewed the major Arab issues listed on the UN [General Assembly] 49th session. They have all called for a unified stance to convey their commitment to substantive Arab issues. Most important among these are the issues of Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, self-determination, and territorial sovereignty. They have also emphasized their rejection of dropping or suspending these issues on the pretext that they are delayed issues. These issues were delayed to the final stage because they are substantive and essential issues.

During this meeting, we all stressed that all the issues I have mentioned lie in the heart of international legitimacy and UN resolutions. Arab resolutions adopted in Arab summits and the Arab League Council apply to these issues. We expressed our adherence to these issues out of our commitment to the peace process in compliance with Arab League resolutions, foremost of which is Resolution No. 5902 for the year 1992.

The ministers have decided to set up a drafting committee from Jordan, Tunisia, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. Membership in this committee will be open to others. The committee will draft the resolutions that will be submitted to the current General Assembly session in full compliance with Arab interests and constants, which fall in line with the peace process. The committee will consider the resolutions on the Middle East situation in light of the current changes.

We also dealt with other Arab issues. Agreement was reached on them and the necessary decisions regarding them will be adopted.

I can say that the meeting was friendly, intimate, and reconciliatory. Agreement and consensus were the major characteristics of this Arab ministerial meeting. [end recording]

Libyan Envoy Submits al-Qadhdhafi Message on Summit

NC0210181394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has stated that he handed the presidents of Djibouti, Comoros, and Sudan messages from Revolution Leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi concerning Libya's call for an urgent Arab summit to discuss the current situation in the Arab region.

Al-Bishari added that during his tour he discussed bilateral ties between Libya and these countries in addition to the Arab situation. He noted that Libya will open a permanent representation office in Comoros and that the Libyan diplomatic mission will soon arrive there.

Arab sources have said that Djibouti and Comoros have approved al-Qadhdhafi's call for an urgent summit.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Forms Kashmir Contact Group; Serbia Criticized

BK0410070794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The coordination committee of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers at its meeting in New York has finalized the formation of a five-member contact group on Kashmir. The group comprising Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Niger, and a representative of ICO secretariat was formed in accordance with the decision of the seventh Islamic foreign ministers meeting held in Islamabad last month.

The Pakistani foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, who presided over the meeting thanked the ummah for its consistent support to the just struggle of people of Jammu and Kashmir for self-determination. He also briefed the participants about the reign of terror unleashed by Indian occupation forces in the held Kashmir. He hoped that the UN General Assembly would use its authority to bring pressure on India to enter into a meaningful negotiation for resolving the core issue of Kashmir and desist from terrible human rights violations. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali touched upon a number of issues which are causing great suffering to the Muslim world. He said tragedy in Bosnia-Hercegovina was a challenge not only to fundamental human and modern norms but an affront to the international community. He said Serbia's naked aggression and ethnic cleansing has caused great destruction both human and material. On Afghanistan, he said Pakistan would continue to support and encourage ICO's efforts for a national reconciliation in Afghanistan. The foreign minister also expressed concern over the aggression by Armenian forces against Azerbaijan and called for withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azeri territory. The meeting was told that the summit meeting of the ICO will be held in Morocco from the 12th to 18th of December this year to discuss problems being faced by the Muslim countries.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 27 Sep

NC3009142594

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 27 September issue of the

Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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WRITERS CRITICIZE UN RESOLUTION EASING SANCTIONS ON SERBIA

In a 2,300-word article on pages 1 and 21, Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl denounces the UN Security Council resolution easing the sanctions imposed on the new Yugoslav Federation of Serbia and Montenegro. He says that amid a massive wave of Islamic protest, the Security Council "committed a new crime against Muslims everywhere" when it passed this resolution. It did this while suspicion abounds about the support of the Yugoslav Serbs for the Bosnian Serbs. The Bosnian Serbs have escalated their acts of aggression against the Muslims, halted UN relief aid, threatened to attack the UN forces should they intervene, continued bombing Sarajevo Airport to stop aid, and cut water and electricity supplies to the besieged city in preparation for overrunning it. The resolution "rewarded" new Yugoslavia and sought to delude the world into believing that there is a difference between the new Yugoslav Federation and the Bosnian Serbs, who continue the ethnic cleansing of the Muslims and besieging their towns. The masterminds of the "suspect" resolution, in an exposed attempt at deception, forget that had it not been for the generals of the new Yugoslav Federation and the overrunning of the Bosnian cities one by one, the Bosnian Serbs would have been unable to capture 70 percent of Bosnia. Had it not been for the weapons left by the Yugoslav Army, the Bosnian Serbs' aggression could not have continued after the withdrawal of the Yugoslav Army. Even if the new Yugoslav Federation severed ties with the Bosnian Serbs, there is no justification to reward it, for the simple reason that the Security Council has not punished it for its war crimes. The resolution, the writer says, is "a mark of disgrace" for the members who voted for it, especially the five permanent member states of the Security Council. Noting that the U.S. stance is "vague," he says no one knows how, given its huge influence, the United States failed to oppose this resolution or, at least, bargain with its European partners, who reject its efforts to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims. Now that Washington has jumped on the bandwagon of the Russians, French, and British, we do not believe they will offer it anything in return and agree to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims.

In a 600-word column on page 10, Majdi Salim says the West is imposing its will on Muslims through the United States, France, Germany, and Britain or through the United Nations, which is controlled by it. Cogent proof is the Security Council resolution easing the sanctions on Yugoslavia. The resolution was passed at the same time as UN observers monitoring the borders between Serbia and Bosnia declared that over 50 Serbian helicopters broke the siege and shipped arms and supplies to the Bosnian Serbs. The civilized world under the new world order "rewards" the aggressors. The Serbs in both Yugoslavia or Bosnia are "mere tools" in the hands of the United States, France, and Britain to "empty" Europe of Muslims. Events in Bosnia are just the beginning and Albania's turn and perhaps Turkey's will follow. Most likely, the alleged U.S. draft plan for lifting the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims will not be submitted to the Security Council, because the undeclared deadline given to the Serbs is enough to achieve the West's goal so that the Serbs can commit the massacre.

In a 400-word column entitled "The American Security Council" on page 19, 'Ali Faruq says that last week the Western community led by the United States massed huge forces to invade the poorest and smallest country in the western hemisphere to topple the dictatorial rule in Haiti. This week the United States, which, he says, controls the UN Security Council under the new world order, decided "to reward the Serb criminals who committed the most heinous crimes against the Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina." It made the Security Council pass a resolution lifting the blockade on Serbia, thus giving the "green light to finish off" what remained of the Muslims so that Islam might not survive in Europe. He asserts that all the Muslim nations did was to denounce and condemn the resolution passed by the "American Security Council." The statements of condemnation as usual did not "specify the way to confront this resolution to save the Muslims in Bosnia," he argues.

In his regular column "Call to Reason" on page 24, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Sayyid, in approximately 650 words, comments on the same theme. He states that the new world order "rewards the aggressors for their aggression." International legitimacy extends its protection of the aggressors and denies the victims this protection. The regular Yugoslav Army provided the Bosnian Serbs with unlimited supplies of arms and ammunition. Because the Serbs of the state and the Serbs of the gangs are confident of the feebleness of international legitimacy and defeatism of the new world order, they persisted in their massacres and ethnic cleansing, which have never stopped; they have simply moved elsewhere. While the Serbs continued to receive weapons and supplies, the Bosnian people were being denied weapons for self-defense. Criticizing the United Nations the writer says it has never before stooped to this state of "weakness and humiliation." He claims that UN resolutions on regional crises have never before reached such a point of decadence and likens the United Nations situation now to that of the League of Nations before its collapse. He maintains that there is interest in retaining the United Nations, because its survival as a mere tool in the hands of some big powers is more useful than its demise. The UN secretary general, he suggests, had better resign and withdraw quietly to take care of himself.

SCHOLARS GIVE DIVERSE VIEWS ON RELIGION'S ROLE AT COUNCIL

In a 1,000-word account on pages 1 and 10, Nisrin al-Tannani reports on the opening of the first annual conference on university education. She notes that Dr. Jabir 'Asfur the secretary general of the Higher Council of Culture, an affiliate of the Ministry of Culture, established in 1980, said there is no place for religion at the university and that the university "must not submit to any form of extortion." He states that religion can be studied at al-Azhar and at the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs. Justifying his stance, he says that this council addresses cultural issues and seeks to create a cultural revival through its 21 committees, which include Egypt's elite thinkers. He says the council is concerned with planning cultural policies, linking them with international cultures, and refining the masses' appreciation of all forms of culture. Dr. al-Sa'di Farhud, who is a former al-Azhar University president, Dr. Mustafa al-Shak'ah, arts professor at the 'Ayn Shams University in Cairo, and Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Birri, professor at the Islamic Call College in al-Azhar University, counter 'Asfur's views. They maintain that religion is an essential element of culture and must not be ignored in an Islamic country with Egypt's stature, a country, they say, that is looked upon by the Muslim world as a model to be followed.

PREACHERS TRAINING COURSE OPENS

An unattributed 80-word report on page 2 notes that a three-month training course for mosque preachers will open next week. They will be trained in methods of preaching and influencing congregations. Specialized professors from al-Azhar and noted preachers from the Awqaf Ministry will lecture the preachers. The goal of the course is to qualify old and new preachers in peaceful and wise preaching, renouncing fanaticism and rigidity, and correcting erroneous concepts on various contemporary issues.

MOSQUES CHIEF URGES PRAYER LEADERS TO ADHERE TO THEMES

An unattributed 100-word report on page 3 notes that the director general of the state-controlled mosques, Shaykh Hamdi Ayyub, advised all inspectors of mosques on the need to tighten control of the prayer leaders in mosques. He stressed that they should adhere in their sermons to the topics approved by the Awqaf Ministry to ensure that the congregation will receive sound knowledge. He called on the inspection department to instruct prayer leaders to attend daily lessons arranged by the Awqaf Ministry.

WRITER DEPLORES DISPUTES AMONG MUSLIM NATIONS

In his regular column "In All Frankness," in a report entitled "What Is Happening to Muslims And What Is Being Planned for Them?" on page 6, Basyuni al-Halwani, in 600 words, notes a deplorable situation in the Islamic world and campaigns of persecution and annihilation confronting people in it. He argues that there are forces acting to frustrate any attempt to restore solidarity and unity among the Islamic countries. He cites as examples the coordination and warming between the Egyptian and Iranian delegations during the recent international Conference on Population and Development, which, he says, soon fell through when the Iranian president made remarks against the Egyptian leadership. He notes the rising disputes between Algeria and Morocco and between Sudan and Egypt over marginal issues.

AL-AZHAR MOSQUE RECTOR ON ISLAM, AL-AZHAR'S MISSION

In a 1,000-word article on page 7, al-Azhar Mosque rector Shaykh Jad al-Haqq Ali Jad-al-Haqq elaborates on Islam and the al-Azhar Mosque's role in spreading the true word of religion throughout the ages. He notes that al-Azhar has consistently highlighted Islam's call for peace, fraternity, and respect for diverse views. He states that al-Azhar welcomes a human system in which all religions can cooperate to reform man's life and eschew fostering religious feuds, spreading love and amity among all peoples without religious, racial, or linguistic segregation. He says that Islam warns against fighting followers of other religions and urges peaceful and wise dialogue with them.

Palestinian Affairs

Russia To Open Representation in Autonomy

TA0310135794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia has decided to open a representation in the autonomy, and it will be located in Jericho. The announcement was presented to Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], 'Arafat's deputy, who is visiting Moscow. PLO sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Russians also promised Abu-Mazin to send representatives to supervise the elections in the territories.

Hamas Denounces Arab Normalization With 'Enemy'

JN0310130594 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 3 Oct 94 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has issued a statement on lifting the economic boycott and establishing diplomatic relations with the enemy, in which it said:

With the state of Arab fragmentation and division beyond description, the slogans of Arab coordination eroded, the empty slogans of unity burned, and the minimum level of joint Arab action having vanished, a group of Arab states compete to throw themselves into the arms of the Zionist age.

Morocco has announced the establishment of diplomatic relations and the opening of liaison offices between it and the Hebrew state, and Tunis has followed suit. Within the same framework, the Arab Gulf states are adopting a decision to lift a boycott imposed on the firms dealing with the Zionist entity or the@companies dealing with these firms. The decision was described as the cancellation of the secondary and tertiary economic boycott. At the same time, the Arab League, which no longer has any control over the Arab decision, has more than once refused to lift the Arab boycott.

While denouncing this Arab eagerness to join the Zionist era, Hamas, holds all Arab parties which have capitulated to the will of the Zionist enemy, responsible for the dangers posed by the Zionist penetration of the region. Hamas affirms that the Zionist enemy has used the agreements signed with the Arab parties as a gate to penetrate the Arab region and to impose its full hegemony on it, its destinies, and resources.

While closely watching the exacerbation of the state of Arab submission, Hamas, stresses that our criminal and wicked enemy will never hesitate to exploit this hateful Arab rapprochement toward it, to push the Arab parties toward accepting humiliating terms of the settlement with the usurper Zionist entity, and toward testifying to the loss of Arab rights.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, calls on the Arab and Islamic masses to reject all dealings with the murderous Zionists, and to foil normalization at the popular level, as well as the attempts to undermine the genuine Arab and Islamic identity.

Hamas Leader on 'Conditions' for Elections

JN0210200194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Oct 94

[Interview with Husayn Abu-Kuwayk, "one the Islamic leaders in the occupied territory," by unidentified radio correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Husayn Abu-Kuwayk: Welcome to the Voice of Palestine.

[Abu-Kuwayk] Thank you.

[Correspondent] Some Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders support participation in the coming legislative elections. What is the stand of the movement regarding participation in the elections, and are there certain conditions that must be met before taking part in these elections?

[Abu-Kuwayk] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In fact, this depends on the method and quality of the elections. It is known that the movement's declared and principled stand is that if the legislative elections are free and fair—and if they are aimed at producing real representatives of the Palestinian people who will freely choose the political and social trends of this people—the movement will participate in the elections. However, if these elections are governed by the ceiling given to the self-rule and the Gaza-Jericho First accord, the movement will not, in any way, participate in these elections.

[Correspondent] Does the movement have any political conditions for participating in the elections?

[Abu-Kuwayk] They are the same conditions announced a long time ago. The movement has always called for free legislative parliamentary elections for all the sons of the Palestinian people wherever they are. The movement has always called for electing a real national council elected by the Palestinian people who will elect their real representatives. This is what the movement wants and these are the conditions of the movement for fair, free elections.

[Correspondent] What is the relationship between establishing an Islamic political party and the issue of participating in the legislative elections?

[Abu-Kuwayk] So far, my dear brother, the issue of establishing an Islamic party is still under discussion. Due to the many opinions in the Islamic movement the picture of this party has not yet been crystallized. The proposed party is a practical and real picture of the movement's dealing with the new situation and with what will happen in the future in terms of repercussions on our Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] Will the new Islamic party be formed from other Islamic parties?

[Abu-Kuwayk] We hope that almighty God will unite ranks and efforts. We are eager to see a broad national Islamic front that opposes the Gaza-Jericho accord. This front would lay down a united and programmed mechanism to deal with the new situation in the coming stage.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Husayn Abu-Kuwayk.

'Arafat Seeks Elections 'as Soon as Possible'

BR3009150394 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 30 Sep 94 p 11

[Report by Giorgina Higueras: "'Arafat Says He Is Negotiating With Hamas Fundamentalists To Advance Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat said in Madrid that he had arranged talks with Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement fundamentalists to "advance the peace process" in the Middle East. The PLO chairman played down the importance of the radicalism of Hamas,which is opposed to Palestinian Autonomy and any dialogue with Israel.

'Arafat said at a dinner organized on Wednesday [28 September] by the International Press Club: "We have built a democracy in a forest of guns and we are in favor of there being an opposition." In this area he stressed the importance of holding elections as soon as possible to ascertain what the Palestinian people really want.

From the king to the president of the Spanish Employers' Confederation and the leaders of the political parties, 'Arafat tirelessly repeated yesterday that autonomous Palestine was "facing the challenge of the future beginning with its reconstruction" and that there was room in this "battle" for all governments and employers.

Al-Rujub Said Sent Away by 'Arafat

TA0310091594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Oct 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, angry at Jibril al-Rujub's recent run-ins with the Israel Police, is sending the Jericho security chief abroad for a short period, Palestinian sources said yesterday.

Al-Rujub confirmed that he would leave for Egypt and perhaps a second Arab state soon. But he categorically denied he had a falling out with 'Arafat.

"I am leaving for Egypt, because I must have an operation there on my ear," al-Rujub said. "I have the full backing of the chairman," he added.

A source close to al-Rujub, however, said 'Arafat recently had made clear to the security chief his dissatisfaction with his present conflict with Jerusalem police.

"'Arafat wants al-Rujub to go away for a while, until things cool off," the source said.

The development comes as Jerusalem police for the second time this month uncovered al-Rujub's agents operating in the city. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat Interviewed on Elections, Army

TA0110142194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 1 Oct 94

[Interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, "holder of the local government portfolio in the Palestinian Authority and chairman of the Palestinian elections commission," by Mark Weiss; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] ['Urayqat] Well, the elections were supposed to take place on 13 July, then we announced 15 October, then we announced November. Now, since we are resuming negotiations on elections, we hope that we can do it before the end of this year.

[Weiss] Why is it so important for you to have the elections quickly? Why is it not better to wait, to do it properly—maybe in a few months, maybe in the spring?

['Urayqat] Well, if you look at the agreement very thoroughly, the nucleus of the agreement is the elections, and anyone in his sane mind, if he is interested to preserve the peace process, to give this peace process a chance, I think we must proceed immediately for the elections. Elections mean to us, as Palestinians, local legitimacy, international legitimacy. The Palestinian people want elections, and if there is a word in the political dictionary of the Palestinians that they don't like, it's the word appointment.

[Weiss] In the DOP [Declaration of Principles] and the subsequent agreements, the size of the body to be elected was not stated. It's known there are serious disagreements between both sides on the functions of the body to be elected. What would you like to see? Would you like to see something more or less similar to the Israeli Knesset? A parliament? A Palestinian parliament?

['Urayqat] Well, let me say that ever since the negotiations began—actually, in Madrid, in Washington, and later in Oslo, and now in Cairo—the Israelis have voiced one concern: that two organs—a legislative body and an executive body—would translate into a parliament of a state. This is the only concern the Israelis talk about. We presented the Israelis models throughout the century of people who had executive councils and legislative councils, and they were not states. [passage omitted]

Now we are going through an interim period. The interim period is not an independent state, all right? So, as long as we commit ourselves to what we signed in the agreement, and since the Israelis have already signed and committed themselves to a council that will have both legislative and executive nature, then it's only logical that the size of the council, the number of the members of the council, the electoral system, the law for the election of the Palestinian council—whether there is going to be a majority or a proportional mixed model, proportional full like in Israel, [word indistinct] proportional, full vote system—it's none of Israel's concern, as long as we have an agreement specifying that this council will be limited in certain things that it cannot do.

We presented all these things to the Israelis. So far, we haven't received any official response from the Israelis. I will not negotiate with the Israelis through the way of the Israel radio or the newspapers. They haven't handed back to us one single official paper to the papers that we gave to them. We hope that next Monday in Cairo we'll receive an official response from them. [passage omitted]

[Weiss] The DOP also calls for redeployment by Israeli troops outside the population centers at the latest by the eve of the elections. What do you understand by this? For you, does this mean Israeli troops have to pull out of just the main cities, or out of all the villages, so that no Israeli soldiers will be seen on election day?

['Urayqat] What we talk about the redeployment, I think the terms of reference are very well set in the DOP that was signed. The Israeli forces must complete their redeployment outside the populated areas, which means centers, villages, refugee camps, towns, and so on, and I think this is why we need to have parallel negotiations: on the one hand, talking about elections, and at the same time, talking about redeployment, and at the same talking about review of laws [words indistinct] as the agreement specified.

The problem with our negotiations is that the Israelis had insisted to negotiate sequentially, in a sequential manner: Today we will discuss the passages, tomorrow the crossing points, thirdly the prisoners, fourthly this and that. What we think now is, if we want to give this peace agreement a chance, we need to adopt a parallel approach of negotiations so we can have the elections no later than the end of this year. [passage omitted]

[Weiss] What about East Jerusalem? It's written in the agreement that residents of East Jerusalem will be allowed to vote. I believe that you are pressing that residents of East Jerusalem will also be allowed to be elected.

['Urayqat] The agreement specified that the Palestinians of East Jerusalem will participate in the elections as agreed between the two sides. That's precisely what the agreement said. So, participate means voting and candidates at the same time. Have you ever heard of any people voting for some people who are not their representatives? So, the term participate means candidates and voters. [passage omitted]

DFLP Official on Arrests, Unity With PFLP

JN0310201294 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1738 GMT 3 Oct 94

[Interview with Qays al-Samarra'i, identified by nom de guerre Abu-Layla, member of the DFLP Political Bureau, by radio correspondent Salah Salamah; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salamah] Mr. Abu-Layla, member of the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] Political Bureau. Members of the DFLP in the Gaza Strip are facing a detention campaign. So far, 52 members have been arrested. What are the reasons that resulted in this open confrontation between the DFLP and the National Authority in the self-rule areas?

[Al-Samarra'i] First, I would like to say that so far 65 strugglers from the political, popular, and media departments of the DFLP in Gaza have been arrested. Second, I would like to affirm that the DFLP has not opted for confrontation with the so-called Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip. We have asserted from the beginning our concern to stop the sedition and prevent any fighting among the sons of the one people. At the same time, we stressed that as the occupiers and settlers continue to move freely in the Gaza Strip and build their settlements on 40 percent of the Gaza land, we, as a part of the Gazans, are determined to continue to fight against settlers and the army of occupation wherever they are on our homeland. Since the Palestinian Authority is committed, in accordance with the Oslo-Cairo accord, to curb the armed resistance operations against Israeli settlements and military presence in Gaza, the measures taken by the Palestinian Authority, within the framework of this commitment pursuant to direct orders from the Rabin government, are responsible for any tension or problem that might occur between the sons of the one people and one society.

[Salamah] Abu-Layla, what is the reality of the statement which Palestinian Authority sources said calls for internecine fighting?

[Al-Samarra'i] This is a lie and falsehood; it is absolutely baseless. I have with me now the statement which was issued by the Red Star [al-najm al-ahmar] Battalions, claiming responsibility for the operation carried out near (?Shuja'iyah). It does not call for internecine fighting, but asserts the DFLP's determination to continue the fighting against Israeli occupiers and warns the authority against the dangers of taking measures that would sow sedition and lead to internecine fighting among the sons of the one people.

[Salamah] You called on the Palestinian national and Islamic forces in the occupied homeland to put pressure on the subservient authority in Gaza, as you say, to stop the detention campaign and to immediately release the strugglers held in the prisons of this authority. Have you received a positive response to this call, and do you think of coordinating with the other forces opposing the Oslo accord in the self-rule areas?

[Al-Samarra'i] As you know, we extend our hand to coordinate with all national, democratic, and Islamic forces which reject occupation and the commitments dictated on the Palestinian Authority, in accordance with the Oslo accord.

We believe that these detentions are an encroachment on the right to political action and democratic liberties. The authority knows full well that those detainees are political, media, and union cadres that are involved in popular, political, and union work. They are not involved in any way in the armed action which has its own secret and independent organ.

The brothers in the other factions have stressed their solidarity with the DFLP and with other parties exposed to such unjust campaigns. As you know, this is not the first campaign against the front's cadres. There was one two weeks ago. The DFLP was also prevented from convening its congress in the Gaza Strip—a congress we hoped we could convene as a democratic and public congress that would be open to all the masses of the people. Large-scale arrests also took place against the organizations, strugglers, and cadres of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas. We believe that insistence on such a policy constitutes flagrant treachery and lack of correct political calculations. Such steps will backfire on those who have taken them. Neither the people of Gaza nor their national forces will tolerate them.

[Salamah] Abu-Layla, DFLP Central Committee member Nihad Abu-Ghawsh accused Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, of ordering these arrests personally. How can you prove that?

[Al-Samarra'i] The contacts which were held with the leaders of the security and police organs of the self-rule authority in Gaza clearly show that the arrests were ordered by Yasir 'Arafat personally. We believe that this will make him personally responsible for such a policy. Therefore, we call for an immediate abandonment of that policy.

[Salamah] Abu-Layla: The DFLP is concluding its national congress today by ratifying unification with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]. What is the importance of such a unification politically and in the field in light of both fronts' objection to the Oslo agreement between Israel and the PLO?

[Al-Samarra'i] In September 1993, we in both the DFLP and the PFLP agreed that the achievement of unification will provide important leverage to the struggle of the democratic forces, which we believe are adopting a realistic and national policy expressing the interests of our people. This unification will open the way for these forces to play their role and for the wide national and democratic Palestinian masses to confront the Oslo-Cairo agreements and the continued occupation. Yesterday, our congress, including all its delegates taking part in its various seminars inside and outside [the occupied territories], unanimously endorsed the unification with our comrades in the PFLP. From this, a united front will emerge—a front that will encompass all the administrative, military, media organs; the representative offices abroad; and the popular organizations of both fronts. The front will also be open to any other Palestinian forces and figures, which agree to the national salvation program that both fronts jointly worked out last June. We announced that we are ready to immediately apply the unification project, and we are awaiting a similar decision by the competent bodies of the PFLP within the next few days.

[Salamah] Thank you Abu-Layla, DFLP Political Bureau member, for giving this interview to Monte Carlo Radio.

[Al-Samarra'i] You are welcome.

Police Detain 'Several Dozen' DFLP Activists

TA0210100494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police last night detained several dozen activists of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] terror organization. A source in the Palestinian police said the detentions were carried out following two shootings at Israeli targets within the autonomy area yesterday attributed to this organization. The source added that the DFLP recently issued a statement calling for confrontation with the Palestinian authorities against the background of the normalization with Israel. Hisham Abu-Ghawsh, one of the DFLP's heads, denies that such a statement has been issued by his organization, further claiming that the detentions are politically motivated.

Our correspondent Dani Zaqen notes that in reaction to terror attacks carried out over the last few months the Palestinian police have routinely detained several political activists from the organizations responsible for the attacks, but went on to release them after several days.

Total of 65 DFLP Activists Detained

TA0310103494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian police have so far detained 65 activists from the political echelon of Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian police says the cause of the detentions are two attacks against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrols in the Gaza Strip two days ago. Nihad Abu-Ghawsh, the DFLP spokesman in the Gaza Strip, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the detentions are politically motivated and have nothing to do with the shootings. He claims the Palestinian Authority is trying to prevent the opposition from expressing its positions against the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

Algeria

Dembri Views Dialogue, Berbers, Arab Unity

NC0310092294 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Oct 94 pp 1, 9

[Report on an interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Dembri by Amal Mudallali at the United Nations; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri expressed optimism over the dialogue that has started in Algeria and even said that "the success of the Algerian experience will become a model for the entire Arab and Islamic world." He did not rule out the possibility that the dialogue could result in the formation of a national accord government, which he regards as the "way to salvation," and hinted at the possibility of holding elections soon.

In an interview with AL-NAHAR, Dembri denied that foreign powers, especially the United States and France, have had any influence on his government's decision to open a dialogue with the opposition parties, including the "Islamic Salvation Front" [FIS]. He said: "We have sought no one's advice."

He made light of events in the tribal areas with a Berber majority and stressed that talk of the danger of a civil war is "exaggerated." He pointed out that "the Berber movement in our country is raised only as a cultural movement."

Dembri spoke positively about the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] hours before his meeting with Abdellati Filali, Morocco's minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, the first to be held since the border between the two countries was closed in August following the attack on the "Atlas-Asni" Hotel in Marrakesh and Rabat's accusations that Algeria's secret service was behind it.

Regarding the chances of the dialogue succeeding this time, Dembri said: "The dialogue is really open to all the political groups in Algeria, all the groups that agree to respect the constitutional constants, including the state of law and order, the defense of the basic collective and personal freedoms, defense of pluralism and the orderly succession to power, and the nonuse of violence to achieve or retain power. These are general principles, which will not be infringed with regard to Algerian society's scope. The dialogue also has an open agenda and accepts proposals from every party taking part in it. This is the general policy. Several political groups have agreed to take part under the auspices of respecting the country's constitutional and legal constants and of contributing to the agenda so that we can proceed with the transitional period based on a national accord. [FIS leader] Abbassi Madani's letter of 23 August was positive, because it adopted a clear stance on the constitutional and legal constants that the president stipulated when he called all the Algerian political groups to the dialogue."

There are those who say the dialogue has come late, even too late. Is this true?

Dembri replied: "This is not true, because the national dialogue brought us to the national forum last January, a forum in which political groups actively took part. We organized the transitional period and set up the political establishments to manage this period. But in January some political groups decided not to withdraw from participating in the national forum and the transitional establishments. President Liamine Zeroual took a new initiative to reopen the dialogue for all these groups that did not participate before. The dialogue was not late for us, rather, it was a second opportunity for the faithful Algerian sons to contribute to the achievement of the national accord with regard to Algerian society's scope.

Asked to what extent the United States' call for a dialogue with the Islamists has been influential in beginning this dialogue, Dembri said: "It is not correct to put it this way. This is because the dialogue is part of the methodology of political practice in Algeria and democratic practice in general. There can be no democracy without dialogue, without consultations, without adopting various ideas, and without conciliation. The Algerian methodology stems from the intelligence of all Algerian political factions. Algeria is an independent state known for protecting the independence of its decisions. We have relations with foreign partners with whom we consult over issues of interest in the world, but Algeria has not sought advice from anybody and has not asked anyone to help it secure its destiny. It seems to me that in its national struggle, Algeria rejects any interference in its domestic affairs regardless of the party it is dealing with."

Asked how he could explain the U.S. position on the Algerian crisis, particularly since the United States is hosting known members of the FIS, Dembri said: "We deal with officially declared positions, not comments made here or there, particularly through the media. The official U.S. position declared before the Congress or through the State Department's official spokesman is clear to us. It is one of support for the Algerian methodology regarding the dialogue, of backing the dialogue and the current economic reform."

Dembri was then asked to compare the U.S. position to the French position. He said: "As far as we are concerned, the outside world in general has come to understand the wisdom of Algeria's methodology. There is a number of officially declared stands, including that of the European Union, which in its latest meeting expressed satisfaction with Algeria's methodology and the course of the current dialogue. We have not commented on this matter, because these are official issues. Each country is free to say what it wants, but we have not sought advice from any country."

The Algerian foreign minister was then asked about the government's stance regarding calls to set up a national government in Algeria and whether this would be the appropriate way out of the crisis. Dembri said: "It seems to me that the current government in Algeria is a national government. Your question may raise the issue of expanding the government or setting up a government of national accord. Of course, this is on the agenda of the current dialogue. We have not ruled out the possibility of expanding the government or setting up a transitional government in which known political factions participate. All these are possibilities and in the nature of democratic action."

Dembri was asked: If new elections are held and the FIS wins the majority of votes, would you accept the results? He said: "I think that respect for the state of the law, the multiparty system, the orderly rotation of power, and respect for basic rights are all within the framework of modern democratic practices, and each party must respect these principles. Naturally, when elections are held in the future, I believe in the near future, the winning party will be the one that gains the most votes. However, constitutional rules and the general principles of democratic life must be respected." To a question about events in the Berber areas and the threat of civil war, the Algerian foreign minister said: "These are exaggerated remarks. The Berber movement in Algeria is only a cultural movement. We should not forget that we are Algerians before anything else. Algeria has its own national identity and is an integral part of the Arab homeland. We should always remember that all Algeria has participated in the liberation of the country throughout centuries. However, there are people who are trying to separate the various factions of the Algerian people. This is extremely serious. The Algerians are united and have demonstrated their love for the Algerian homeland."

Regarding the problems in Algerian-Moroccan relations and the AMU, the Algerian minister said: "The AMU is successful due to its political presence. We also have Maghreb economic integration. Although the AMU is only six years old, one can sense its Maghreb character. But it takes a long time to complete the process. Take the Arab League, for example. It was established 40 years ago, and yet Arab unity is still being discussed. The Arab Maghreb is an integral part of the Arab nation. We must adopt a working plan that will enable us to build up the personality of the Arab Maghreb and present it to the world."

Asked if the dispute with Morocco affects the AMU, Dembri said: These are temporary matters regardless of the situation. As far as we are concerned, the AMU is a strategic option and not a tactical plan. These are facts. Difficulties will perhaps emerge at times, but we must always use our political intelligence in this case."

To a question about Algeria's stand on the steps being taken by some Arab Maghreb countries toward establishing relations with Israel and whether Algeria has set conditions for establishing such relations, the Algerian foreign minister said: "Peace is a comprehensive process. All the necessary steps must be taken before normalizing relations. Perhaps when Syria and Lebanon are also involved in the peace we could collectively and as part of the Arab League propose the normalization of relations."

The Algerian foreign minister added: "Algeria always supports political logic. We were involved in the first initiatives, because the Palestine National Council held its 18th and 19th sessions in Algeria. All the Palestinian initiatives were the fruit of these meetings. This shows that Algeria never embarked on personal initiatives, but it always participates in Arab collective decisions. We adopt the Arab collective move as a way to achieve Arab accord. There will be no normalization before signing the peace agreements. We spelled out this position in September 1993 during the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement. We said that this represents the first step toward a comprehensive solution in the Middle East. We are still waiting for this solution."

The Algerian foreign minister added: "This and the Arab boycott issues must be submitted to the Arab League. We need consultations more than ever. We need Arab reconciliation in all walks of life. We also need Arab accord."

FFS Leader Khelil Interview

LD0110150494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1958 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Studio interview with Said Khelil, acting secretary general of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), by Nasreddine Allaoui—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [Allaoui] Ladies and gentlemen: May God's peace be upon you. Welcome. Today's interview will be with the representative of the Socialist Forces Front, which was set up by the historical figure Hocine Ait Ahmed. [passage omitted] Welcome Mr. Said Khelil.

[Khelil] Thank you.

[Allaoui] The first question has to be on the current developments surrounding the abduction of the Algerian singer Matub Lounes, which has given rise to various reactions within the ranks of his fans in the Kabylia region. Is there any new development in this case? What is the reaction of the FFS on the abduction of an artist, and what are the repercussions of such an abduction?

[Khelil] [Passage omitted] As far as we are concerned we have taken a position on this abduction. A position which has warned against any maneuvers which might lead the country to a state of war. Thus, we have taken a responsible stance. We said that we cannot accept such deeds. However, our responsible stance has not shifted. We hope that the singer will return safely to his parents and family. We also hope that we will be able to find a solution to the disturbances in the Kabylia region. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] Mr. Said Khelil, we have learned that an FFS delegation met recently with representatives of the presidency. Could you tell us about the meeting and under what conditions the bilateral talks between the presidency and the FFS were held?

[Khelil] The meeting was a preparatory one. We had adopted a position at our National Council. We said we were ready to take part in the bilateral negotiations if the conditions were different. We have put our position and our perception of the dialogue forward. We did not reject the dialogue which is underway between the authorities and opposition parties; we also put forward our proposals. As far as we are concerned, there must be bilateral talks to prepare the way for multilateral talks. And we would like to continue our dialogue with all parties, without exception, to find a bottom line on which we can all agree. And only when we have reached such an agreement can we meet in order to find a solution. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] Said Khelil, for you in the FFS, what are the direct reasons that made the party refuse to participate in the dialogue, which includes five parties, and then later accept entering into the second phase of the dialogue, namely the bilateral dialogue proposed by the regime?

[Khelil] First, let me explain that we would not be happy with the failure of the dialogue. There is something positive in Algerians meeting and exchanging views. We followed it, although we were not at the negotiating table. We were in contact either with the presidency or with the parties. We participated in the capacity that suited us.

Anyway, the reason we did not participate directly is because there was a fundamental difference. This concerns the framework which was unilaterally imposed on us by the regime. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] In addition to the FFS, the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] and Ettahadi are also among the parties which did not participate; the parties which are generally described by the media as the democratic parties. Are there, for example, contacts or efforts to build what Hocine Ait Ahmed described as the third party or the third force?

[Khelil] There are other parties which have not participated; we have to make clear that we did not participate for different reasons. We did not set a precondition that we will not participate unless our social proposal was the basis for the dialogue. We said that the dialogue had to be sound, fully open, with every side having the right to set their conditions, and later we would look for the bottom line.

Regarding the democratic bloc; contacts are continuing with parties, prominent political and historical figures and with associations. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] Said Khelil, it is clearly noticed that all the proposals put forward or the attempts made by other sides to build the democratic bloc have failed. Is this caused by personal differences between the leaders of the various movements or due to big differences in their perception of democracy? What are the real reasons which made them...

[Khelil, interrupts] We do not look at it in terms of leaders or prominent figures. There is an Algerian reality and society. I see the democratic bloc as stemming from the people. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] Said Khelil, in your latest statement you expressed criticism of the term "Islam is the religion of the state," as stated in the Constitution. How does FFS view this term and the role of Islam in building the Algerian state?

[Khelil] Let me confirm this term. We, in the FFS, have no problem with Islam. We live in a society which has been Muslim for centuries. We have all been brought up in an Islamic environment. [passage omitted] We have no problem with Islam. This should be clear. The problem is with the state. In our country, rule and power and the state have become mixed. When someone is given responsibility, whether in a ministry or province, he behaves as though they are his property. How do you understand this? If the state belongs to some people, a party, a group or a bloc, we will not accept that they should exploit Islam in order to stay in power.

If the state is democratic, belongs to the Algerian people and the state of law, we would accept Islam as the religion of the state. This would be natural. The state would be working with the reality of the society, and this is the reality of the society, and a social and cultural reality. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] Mr. Said Khelil, according to your statement, it looks quite clear that the FFS does not accept the idea of setting up an Islamic state in the form which has been put forward by the parties that have been fighting for such a project. Is my understanding of what you have just said correct or not?

[Khelil] Before we start talking about the idea of an Islamic state one should take into account the reality: There is an authority in the country which is undemocratic. One should remember this. This has complicated political life in the country.

However, our position and our concept have been the following: It is all right to discuss an Islamic project if a number of democratic principles, like the alternation of power and human rights, are guaranteed by the advocates of such a project. Once such principles are guaranteed it is up to everyone to defend this project. Without guaranteeing such principles it will be just another dictatorship. Regardless of some people's claims it will not be a democratic system.

We have already asserted that everyone should shoulder his responsibilities. Everyone can go to the people and explain his project, but at the same time he must reiterate his commitment to those principles. Everyone must state whether he accepts such principles or not and whether he does or does not accept the ideas of alternation of power, human rights and individual and public freedoms.

Once a commitment to such principles is made then it will be up to the people to choose freely. No pressures should be brought to bear upon the people to force them to make up their minds. No one should be forced to choose by putting a gun against his head. One should choose freely. We want to reiterate this: Without freedom and without guarantees there will be no democracy.

[Allaoui] If it is the view of the FFS that the solution should be found among Algerians, why did Mr. Ait Ahmed call for an international conference on the crisis in Algeria? Is it to obtain international guarantees for what is agreed upon? What are the reasons which led him to make this call?

[Khelil] We do not have any undertaking with foreigners; there is no doubt about our patriotism. Every time you make a proposal people say: We Algerians must stick together. In our view, there will always be foreigners in the country so that agreement can be reached with the IMF, to carry out debt rescheduling and so on. There is nothing new about this. These international guarantees are normal even in developed, democratic, advanced countries. [passage omitted] We have said that agreement must be between Algerians, between all the parties. Guarantees will increase confidence and stability among citizens. At the moment we are not in a normal situation. We must practice politics peacefully and democratically. The situation is now not normal, it is complicated. We have a state of violence and terrorism. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] The FFS is more or less the only party to ask for an international conference. What made the FFS afraid of a future agreement? Is this fear the result of the behavior of the authorities, for example, or of the behavior of some parties, particularly the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]? Why these fears?

[Khelil] We say that in Algeria's current state we are shouldering our responsibility. Whatever the case may be, do not forget that hundreds of Algerians are dying every week. [passage omitted] We will not accept pressure from any side whatsoever. We are searching for guarantees of a peaceful and acceptable solution. This is a responsible analysis.

[Allaoui] On a point within the same framework, namely the foreign element, and so on, after Algeria has signed the standby agreement with the IMF, how does the FFS think the dialogue should cover economic aspects? What is the FFS view on this?

[Khelil] At the beginning we talked about the framework. I said that the framework was imposed on us by the government with regard to political, security and economic decisions. So no margin was left for the parties. I said that these parties must partipate in everything related to the future of the country.

Our demand was that we should have the right to participate in these agreements because this is the country's future. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] The parties' participation in running the economy will only take place directly through taking part, for example, in a transitional government or national coalition government. Is the FFS prepared to enter the government if there is agreement on a national coalition government or something similar?

[Khelil] This is premature; there is no government...

[Allaoui, interrupts] On principle...

[Khelil, interrupts] It is still far ahead after the transitional government. We have not yet embarked upon a sound dialogue. In order to begin the dialogue we must before all else have a solution and the participation of all sides. The country's problem is first to end the transitional period, which is run by one side. We have said that in order for democracy to be established, this transitional period must be democratic. The opposition must participate. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] I have noticed that in almost all your answers you use the words: A sound dialogue. What is a sound dialogue in the view of the FFS? What do you see as a sound dialogue?

[Khelil] A sound dialogue is not one as we have seen on television between party officials around the same table while another secret dialogue is being held with other officials. A sound dialogue is one which is held in complete transparency. In order to begin it, we must speak on television and say what the contents of meetings were. A sound dialogue is one where no framework is imposed, where the mode of the dialogue or negotiation is not imposed. [passage omitted]

[Khelil] By what you called the secret dialogue you must surely mean the contacts which the authorities had with the FIS leaders. What are the criticisms the FFS level at these contacts? Why does the FFS reject any contacts whatsoever with the FIS leadership?

[Khelil] We have not rejected the contacts, but they must be conducted with complete transparency. We must know. If there are secret negotiations or a secret agreement, this means that I am put in a position where I am under pressure and a solution in which I did not participate is imposed on me. What we have asked for is that we must know what is taking place between all the sides. We are asking for transparency.

[Allaoui] The authorities have recently made a series of decisions including the release of detainees and the transfer of Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj from Blida to some unknown place. Do you think that these decisions support a solution? What result do you think they will have?

[Khelil] From the beginning we asked the government to take preliminary measures to create a suitable climate for seeking a comprehensive and acceptable political solution. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] Some parties believe in or call for the participation of the armed groups in the dialogue; what is the position of the FFS on this point?

[Khelil] We practice politics, we are not military men. We, however, as I told you earlier, do not accept negotiations or dialogue under pressure. We can not negotiate while a Kalashnikov is in our back. [passage omitted] No matter where this pressure comes from.

[Allaoui] There will be a problem. The majority of the parties are apprehensive about it, namely the nonparticipation of the armed groups, one way or another; but also that, even if it participates in the dialogue, the FIS leadership might be incapable of halting the violence. However, is halting violence the sole responsibility of the FIS or is it the responsibility of the entire Algerian society, or all the political parties?

[Khelil] There is a reality in which we are living. In this reality is violence, terrorism, and armed groups, some of whom operate for known reasons, some for reasons still unknown. However, this is the reality, and if we were looking for a solution we should alter this reality, we should change this reality and allow political forces to be active so that society will enter the process. Changing the climate and changing the reality would inevitably lead to the gradual disappearance of violence. For the violence to disappear the alternative reality must be one that we believe in and has the trust of the partners and society. This requires responsibility from everyone, from the regime, the parties, the society and the associations.

[Allaoui] Recently there was a strike which came as a result of a demand for teaching the Thamazighth [Berber] language. How does the FFS see the developments of yesterday's demands, and did it come at the right time?

[Khelil] First, as a matter of principle, this demand is a democratic demand. As the saying goes: Right shines, if this demand is justified. It does not wait for the regime or the parties to say it is right. [passage omitted] The Thamazighth reality, throughout Algeria and the Maghreb, is a cultural and linguistic reality which we can not forget or ignore. [passage omitted] To us the principle is democratic, and we say the movement has shown its responsibility and has shown its maturity in that it is acting peacefully and democratically. There is no fear. We should look to this question without hatred or fear. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] Mr. Said Khelil, I just wanted to say that it looks like some kind of provocation—the general strike called by the Berber Cultural Movement [MCB] to support its demand for the Tamazight language coincided with the abduction of Matub Lounes, one of the principal members of the MCB. What is your political reading of such a coincidence?

[Khelil] First I would like to say that Matoub Lounes is my friend. We have been close friends for a long time. I am very disturbed by his abduction. But we have tried, nonetheless, not to be provoked. We have taken a responsible stance. However, we would like to ask here what they want from such actions? What do they want to do to this country? That is why politicians should be aware that these people are prepared to break up the country. One should be careful about this matter, which to us is unacceptable. [passage omitted]

We are still following developments in a responsible manner. We hope that everyone else will shoulder his responsibilities and act in a nationalistic way. We are not enemies; we are brothers. Yesterday we liberated the country without any problems between us. Today we should continue our job of liberating it: Once you give an Algerian his rights, it is like liberating him. And that is why we said we are still continuing our war for liberation. This is our struggle. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] Mr. Said Khelil, we hope that Matub Lounes will return safely to his family. But to return to the demands of the Berbers—what are they? The government has suggested the establishment of a national commission for this to prepare for the teaching of the Berber language in schools. What is the best ...

[Khelil, interrupts] This is not a technical issue, it is one of principle, of recognizing the civic, cultural and linguistic reality. [passage omitted] In order for a language to be recognized in the institutions of the state it must take place at a higher level, the political level. I think that at this time it is the presidency of the country which can make this decision. We hope that the parties will adopt a political stance on this reality. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] Did the FFS include the Amazighi [Berber] demand as a point to discuss in the dialogue with the regime?

[Khelil] This is a reality of the country, an Algerian reality. It is a must that we include it in the dialogue or discussion. However, we need to discuss all the problems, and we must talk about this.

[Allaoui] This is the last question, because we are running out of time...

[Khelil interrupts] Regrettably.

[Allaoui] Yes, regrettably. It is about the return of Hocine Ait Ahmed. Is he ready to return to Algeria in the near future?

[Khelil] We hope that Ait Ahmed will join us, because he would give an added strength to the dialogue, the negotiations, and the search for a solution in order for us to emerge from the crisis. Anyway, we are in daily contact. Perhaps the dialogue and the climate will change and we could proceed toward resolving the crisis. He is bound to contact us, make efforts, and become involved directly in the search for a solution.

[Allaoui] From this I understand that he is not returning in the coming days or weeks.

[Khelil] Quite frankly, no. We ask for transparency and we must live up to it.

[Allaoui] Thank you Said Khelil.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen for following this interview. We hope to meet again later. The Rally for Culture and Democracy has not yet replied to an invitation to participate in our programs. Thank you. Until we meet again.

Ben Bella Calls Himself Algerian 'Jimmy Carter'

BR0310143394 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 1 Oct 94 p 8

[Report by Bosco Esteruelas: "Ben Bella Believes Algeria Has Found Way Out of Political Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid—"I sincerely believe that we are on the right path to emerge from the political crisis," former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella stated yesterday in an interview to EL PAIS, referring to the release of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leaders, and to the dialogue between the government and the opposition. The historical and last extant leader of the 1960 independence revolution is in Madrid taking part in a seminary on embargoes which was promoted by the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latina America (OSPAAL), Unesco's Friends, and the International Embargo Investigation Committee.

Speaking passionately, albeit with traditional Arab warmth, Ben Bella who has spent almost half of his 74-year-long life in prison or exile, stated that Algerian President General Liamine Zeroual's latest initiative aimed at starting a dialogue with the opposition, is inspired by the idea that he himself launched when he returned to his country in 1990. "It was necessary to achieve consensus and to negotiate with all parties without any exclusions. The Army must go back to the barracks and allow civil society to become organized. I think his is a courageous, very courageous attitude, because one section of the military refuses to have a dialogue with the FIS. Zeroual is a patriot and I hold him in great esteem."

Ben Bella, who in the interview with our newspaper defined himself as a member of the opposition in his capacity as leader of the Movement for Democratic in Algeria (MDA)—a small group which he founded in 1990—nevertheless stated that the military regime must offer more assurances in order to be a credible interlocutor for dialogue and, among other things, it must immediately lift the state of semi-arrest in which integrist party leaders Abasi Madani and Ali Belhay are still being kept. He admitted that some cracks had appeared in the regime—the resignation of its spokesperson minister was one of them—and that there was "serious opposition," within the Army, to holding talks with the FIS. However, he discarded the possibility of a coup. "They only represent a minority, and I can assure you that the majority of the Algerian population is in favor of dialogue and reconciliation."

Ben Bella admitted that he had been in touch with both sides in order to help solve the crisis, and that he was prepared to continue doing so. "I am a bit like an Algerian version of Jimmy Carter, even though, officially, I am not a mediator. Nobody has asked me to fulfill this role, but it is only natural because I was the country's first president and one of the revolution's leaders. In short, my party is my fatherland, and let me add that I have no presidential ambitions." He also admitted holding regular meetings with Hocin Ait Ahmed, leader of the Berber Socialist Forces Front (SFF), who is in exile and has received death threats from the Islamists. "I am sure that sooner or later he will return." As regards the Berber outbreak in the Kabilia northern region, the revolution's historical leader said that "the Berbers are not seeking any form of separatism, but only the recognition of their cultural identity and their language, "Tamazight."

Ben Bella acknowledged that he was disappointed by the role Spain was fulfilling in his country's crisis. "I do not want to mention any names, but undoubtedly Spain must, and still can, develop a much more dynamic policy which is closer to the Algerian people's real problems."

Parliamentary Mission Requests Visit Permit

MM0310152094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Oct 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "A Delegation of the Salvation Front Abroad Seeks Permission To Meet With Cheiks in Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] London—Anouar Haddam, head of the Parliamentary Mission of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad, has stated that he has asked President Liamine Zeroual to guarantee the safety of a [Parliamentary] Mission delegation which wishes to visit Algeria and meet with FIS leaders Cheiks Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH asked Haddam about the composition of the delegation that would visit Algeria. That, he said, would depend on the Algerian president's reply. He added that the Parliamentary Mission did not hold negotiations with the Algerian Embassy in Washington but just handed over the request addressed to Zeroual in the form of a message.

He said that the contacts he held with the cheiks did not cover the political situation. He pointed out that Cheiks Madani and Belhadj were not in a position to make free contacts with the FIS cadres despite the fact that the presidential statement announcing their release said that they would be allowed to contact the FIS leaders at home and abroad.

In a statement issued yesterday, Haddam said that "the Parliamentary Mission repeats that it welcomes (President) Liamine Zeroual's initiative made in an attempt to enable the cheiks to participate in the search for a real, just, and radical solution to the Algerian crisis." [passage omitted]

He said that "in the interest of Islamic Algeria," the Parliamentary Mission conveyed to President Zeroual, through the Algerian Embassy in Washington, its wish to send representatives to Algeria "to meet with Dr. Abbassi Madani and Cheik Ali Belhadj as soon as possible. We asked him to provide full guarantees for their safety during the brief visit to Algeria. We are waiting for his reply."

He added: "We request real authorization and all the necessary guarantees for all the FIS leadership, headed by Cheiks Madani and Belhadj, as well as the Mujahidin and their representatives." He continued that what was required was a guarantee of "freedom, protection and security, as well as the necessary means to facilitate consensus on a draft offer with the aim of finding a just and lasting solution."

He called for the release of the rest of the "Algerian Islamic cause prisoners" as a gesture of "the regime's goodwill and sincere intention to hold serious and constructive negotiations." [passage omitted]

Haddam: U.S. Policy Inconsistent

MM0310152694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq: "Haddam Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Our Visit to Algeria Aimed at Meeting With Salvation Front Leaders and Discussing Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Washington—Anouar Haddam, head of the Algerian Salvation Front [FIS] Parliamentary Mission abroad, has stressed that the aim of the request he submitted to President Liamine Zeroual to allow the sending of representatives from the Parliamentary Mission to Algeria is to visit FIS leader Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj to reassure the Front about their situation, discuss the crisis, and offer proposals to find a way out of the crisis.

Haddam told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the request submitted through the Algerian Embassy in Washington does not mention the return to a dialogue, but, rather, a visit and holding a meeting safely and freely in order to offer a plan through FIS leaders on the basis of which to enter the dialogue with the regime. [passage omitted]

On Robert Pelletreau's testimony before a U.S. House of Representatives committee, when he said that those saying that the United States has accepted the victory of extremism in Algeria and is prepared to overlook the extremists' victory are wrong and it is clear that they do not hear what we say, Haddam said: "Most regrettably, U.S. policy does not maintain a single stand. We hope they will reexamine and backtrack on what Pelletreau said and return to their previous position, namely respecting the peoples' will, since the peoples cannot choose extremist regimes for themselves."

Industry Minister Outlines Program

LD0310164394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amar Mekhloufi, minister of industry and energy, held a news conference this morning at the Ministry of Industry and Energy on the program of his ministry. Our colleague, Djahida Khalfaoui, covered the issue and has just come back from the ministry with this report:

[Khalfaoui] In order to inform the public about the program of the industry and energy sector, Mr Amar Mekhloufi held a news conference this morning at the ministry premises. He talked about the new policy adopted in the field of industry and energy following the example of all the other sectors.

The minister said this comes within the framework of the transitional period program, which is aimed at the revival and growth of the economy through the strengthening of market economy mechanisms and the consolidation of national companies, private and public, to see them enter competition in a strong and effective way. [passage omitted]

The minister said we are endeavoring to direct industrial and energy policies towards objectives which must be characterized:

First: By consolidating the major economic balances internally and externally through increasing oil exports and the amount of fiscal imports resulting from them;

Second: By contributing to the promotion of the export of industrial and mining products for additional sources of income resulting from the sources and accumulation of wealth;

Third: By providing basic energy and industrial products to meet the needs of the economy and those of the market taking into account the conditions of cost, usefulness, and security;

Fourth: By improving the sector's production procedure by adopting a coherent program for industrial restructuring and an (?efficient) allocation of scarce products;

Fifth: By putting industrial investment on new bases such as effective partnership. [passage omitted]

New TV Network Promotes Education, Culture

LD0110082694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A new TV network for the national TV programs will start as from today. The overall weekly broadcasting time will be around 122 hours, equivalent to 18 hours per day. National programs will constitute 56.5 percent of the total weekly programs. Priority has been given to educational and cultural programs on the new network, the statement of the national TV enterprise says.

World Bank Prepared To Extend Urgent Loan

LD0210194794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The World Bank is prepared to extend an urgent loan of between 100 to 200 million dollars before the end of this year. This was said by the bank's vice president responsible for the Middle East department. He added that Algeria will get financial assistance of about 50 million dollars as a contribution toward the rebuilding of what was destroyed by the recent earthquake in Mascara.

At a news conference held on the occasion of the convening of the annual conference of the Provisional Committee of the IMF and World Bank in Madrid, Caio Koch-Weser expressed the two organization's confidence in the Algerian Government's determination to proceed along the path of economic and social reforms. He noted that dealing with the unemployment crisis was the main priority in the Algerian Government's policy, while the privatization of small and medium enterprises was another priority.

Imports Credit Available for Manufacturing

LD0310193794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian Bank for Development [BAD] has put $60 million at the disposal of enterprises devoted to the import of raw materials and semi-manufactured products, in addition to spare parts and precision equipment.

It was learned today from BAD that this loan represented the remaining of two pledged loans for supporting the balance of payments concluded in 1991 and 1992 between Algeria and the Japanese bank for import and export, Exim Bank, within the framework of joint financing, the value of which amounted to $650 million.

The enterprises interested in benefiting from this remaining financial amount, the use of which starts before the end of October 1994, must satisfy some conditions whereby the enterprise in question should have an equivalent amount for the commercial deal in the local currency in the bank supervising the contract, and the period for concluding the deal should not exceed more than four months.

Egypt

Musa Addresses UN General Assembly Session

NC0110124494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1742 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Speech by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to the UN General Assembly in New York on 30 September—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Chairman: I am delighted to begin my speech by congratulating you, brother Minister Amara Essy, on your election as chairman of the UN General Assembly, and to congratulate your fraternal country, Cote d'Ivoire, which is linked to Egypt by bonds of friendship and cooperation. I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the wise chairmanship of your predecessor, Ambassador Insanally, representative of Guyana. I must also extend special greetings to Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who, through his known experience, is competently managing UN activity amid political changes, accelerating international transformations, and increasing expectations about the role the United Nations may play today and in the future.

Mr. Chairman: Early this month, the International Conference on Population and Development was held in Cairo. We in Egypt felt very satisfied that the conference ended with a program of action addressing population issues from both their cultural and developmental perspectives, with deep understanding of the various dimensions of this problem. The clamor that surrounded the conference was undoubtedly justified. Some people rightfully defended the need for the conference to take into consideration that different cultures have different views, and that there is absolutely no excuse for imposing on some culture a way of life it does not acknowledge, a thought it does not like, or practices it does not accept. This is in addition to the need to respect all religions, the virtues they call for, and the frameworks they offer to organize the life of individuals and nations.

It is important for me here to refer to the successive conferences being held in the 90's to address the social aspects of development. The interest of the developing countries, and that of all nations, must from now on focus on these aspects. This is what the peoples of the world look forward to, and indeed deserve, after long years of international conflict that caused millions of people to suffer immense social and economic problems.

If we focus on this social development and its universal nature, then the role of the United Nations here is extremely important. The UN's leadership of international conferences working for this objective bolsters the role of the organization in drafting the world of tomorrow, which must be based on just development, collective security, and social stability.

I intentionally began my speech this year with this social dimension to emphasize a new line and a renewed awareness of this important area in international relations. I call on everyone to give this dimension the priority it lost during the cold war and international conflicts, which negatively affected not only social work as a priority but also the level of international activity in this regard and world awareness of its importance and impact.

Throughout the UN General Assembly's 47th session, Egypt called for a new social contract to be drafted jointly by all world cultures and societies so that this can work as a safety valve for the contemporary and future world community. Realizing this objective requires, above all, the creation of an adequate international social soil deriving its roots from the different characteristics of human societies to enrich the march of human development within a concept that respects the integration of and the interaction between cultures.

Mr. President: Being conscious of history's record, Egypt was the first to sow the seeds of peace in the Middle East. It is determined to continue helping all parties to overcome the obstacles to their negotiations and to work toward establishing a new, fair, and secure situation.

Perhaps you recall that last year, on behalf of Egypt, I urged Middle Eastern states and nations to race against time and ponder the fate of our relations in the era after the Arab-Israeli conflict has been settled. My call was based on the profound Egyptian conviction that the only guarantee of a viable and stable peace in the Middle East is linked to success in devising a new relationship among the region's countries relying on a triangular concept on three bases. The first is a political settlement, the second is economic and social development, and the third is regional security and arms control.

I will discuss each of these bases in the context of a concept of a new Middle East; a concept aimed at creating a region rife with creative energies in a climate of security, stability, and a sense of confidence in the future.

First the political settlement: We met here last year only days after the historic agreement was signed between President 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin in September 1993. Under this accord, there was a mutual recognition between the Israeli and Palestinian sides and agreement on the declaration of principles on arrangements for provisional self-rule. The sense of optimism at the time was marred by customary caution until the day of 4 May 1994, when an agreement was signed in Cairo to implement the Declaration of Principles as an important step on the road to peace and to enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate national rights.

The entry of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat into Gaza on 1 July ended a long record of the Palestinian people's sacrifices and steadfastness, through which they gained various nations' support and sympathy. This entry was the first fruit of the peace option accepted by the Palestinian people to win the world's respect for a responsible stance and courageous resolution at that very important historic stage of their longstanding struggle.

Allow me to send from this podium greetings of appreciation to the advocates of peace on both the Palestinian and Israeli sides. At the same time, I ask both sides to continue their efforts to consolidate and strengthen the peace process. I also urge them to carry out quick, tangible, new measures to make the Palestinian people under occupation in the West Bank feel that the peace dividend affects all the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. Foremost among these measures is easing the occupation and daily suffering of the Palestinian people and holding Palestinian elections in these territories. Afterward we can move from the first stage—Gaza and Jericho—toward a stage where these people can exercise their full political rights within the context of self-determination, which is the real way to reach a final solution to this conflict.

I equally urge them to confront acts of violence and terrorism decisively and firmly so that we can achieve security for all and ensure the triumph of peace.

Mr. Chairman: Egypt has blessed the progress in the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations. There is no doubt that the agreement signed between the two countries on 25 September to end the state of war between them is a positive sign in the peace process. While Egypt welcomes this step, it trusts that this momentum will soon help achieve tangible progress on the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks on the basis of full withdrawal from their occupied territories.

Second, economic development: A discerning look at the situation in the Middle East will be enough to realize the organic bond between peace and development in the region, which is central to international peace and security. Laying the foundations for the region's economic and social progress is a necessary step. Otherwise, peace will be meaningless and shortsighted. The development process cannot succeed except within the framework of balanced and careful plans that consider the interests of all sides. Here there are great hopes and wide prospects, but there is no room for one economy to control another; there is enough room for a comprehensive process in terms of production and marketing, allowing every society to offer what it can do best.

Egypt, which is now experiencing a radical economic reform giving its trade, industry, and private sector a major boost, can play a leading role in the regional development process, helping the economy of the region achieve major qualitative progress so that the Middle East can complete its image as a region of active tourism, huge trade volumes, effective investment, and advanced production capabilities.

We nominate the Middle East to be the cradle of the new economic tigers. What Egypt is proposing and hoping for is not an opportunity to make fast profits, but an advanced economic framework that may constitute an important addition to change the climate of the Middle East and make it able to contribute to the growth in international economic interaction.

Third, regional security and arms control: Full peace, in its wide meaning, will not be found in the Middle East unless we change old concepts that resulted from years of war and enmity; namely, that security can be strengthened by stockpiling arms or by possessing weapons of mass destruction. The arms race in the region over the past decades, which was accelerated under the shadow of uncertainty and preparedness, must be tamed so that it harmonizes with the new situation in the region.

Egypt believes that peace in the Middle East needs to be supported by measures to curb armaments. The first of these is lowering the level of armaments. The experience of the region has proven that higher levels of quantitative or qualitative arms in any country neither serves as a deterrent nor ensures security. If this experience is enough reason for us to reevaluate our policy in this respect, then the political achievements, which confidently put us on the road to peace in the region, make us wonder as to the wisdom of increasing armaments under the umbrella of peace.

If the first of these conditions is lowering the level of armaments, the second is achieving a better security balance among the region's states.

A new, stable Middle East cannot be created unless we reject the concepts of military superiority and agree to free the region of weapons of mass destruction. The continuation of these concepts would threaten the already existing chance to create a different Middle East. Any security imbalance will certainly create doubts that take the region back to competition, then an arms race, then conflict.

The third condition is that disarmament measures must be characterized by equality and comprehensiveness. If we seek normal relations among the parties, then the states of the region must offer equal commitments in the area of security and disarmament. Giving special or exceptional status to a party to the exclusion of the others cannot be accepted. Otherwise, serious cracks will emerge in the foundations we are laying, and they may expand to affect the entire structure.

It is from this premise that Egypt launched its initiative through President Husni Mubarak in April 1990. He proposed the establishment of a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction. This responds to the concepts of the new international stage at the regional level, and it is a natural extension of Egypt's call for a nuclear-free Middle East since 1974.

For this purpose, Egypt, with full insistence, calls for full regional adherence to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and for accepting implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency's comprehensive safeguards system. If this takes place, it will constitute a major step pushing peace and reconciliation efforts in the Middle East toward new prospects and preventing new setbacks in future regional relations.

Egypt attaches great importance to Israel promptly taking this step, especially as we draw close to the conference on revising and extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1995. Otherwise, the extension of the treaty, which seeks to prevent nuclear proliferation, will end by entrenching the reverse situation, not a balanced or sound one, (?running counter to the principle) of universality, and constituting an exception to it; this is a bizarre situation that we will not accept.

I take this opportunity to appeal to Israel to respond to this extremely serious call, which will protect the region from the scourge of an arms race no one needs. Such a step will help support regional security.

In the age of peace, gentlemen, a new thought must be born, one that views security from the perspective of new peaceful relations instead of the old considerations that governed regional conflicts. Israel must also go along with international thought, not depart from it. This thought calls for the universality of the nonproliferation treaty, and we fully insist on this so that a race in this serious field can be avoided.

Mr. Chairman: As we discuss world problems and concerns, I cannot but refer to some other situations in our region, with their pains and problems. Fraternal Yemen is dressing its wound after splits and fighting, and we hope there will be enough tolerance for a national reconciliation that agrees with the values of the Yemeni people and allows them to strengthen their march toward development and prosperity.

In Iraq, a tragedy is being experienced by the fraternal Iraqi people, with whom we are awaiting the day on which this suffering ends. This requires that the government of Iraq respond to the requirements of international legitimacy—a clear and decisive official recognition of Kuwait's existence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence.

While speaking about this region, I call on Iran to extend a hand of neighborly relations to its Arab brothers. In this context, there should be serious work to solve the problem of the Arab islands in the Gulf as a sign of good relations that require positive dialogue on political policies that cause concern in various parts of the region.

Moving closer to Egypt, I can say that Libya now has a clear political will to put an end to the Lockerbie crisis by trying the suspects and to work for practical solutions within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions. We must say that an objective view of the problem shows the importance of respecting international legitimacy. The trial of suspects involved in an international crime is necessary and the quicker we do that the better it will be for justice.

In the same context, Egypt cannot speak about neighborliness without mentioning Sudan, to which we have been linked throughout history with unique ties. Today Sudan suffers from a challenge to its sovereignty in the south and from impediments to its development and to its people's prosperity. In both cases, Egypt strongly and clearly supports Sudan's unity and territorial integrity because we cannot accept any division or partition of this country. Egypt also supports with the same strength and clarity the Sudanese people's right to a secure and stable life, as Sudan has been known for tolerance among all its people and good relations with all its neighbors and brothers. There is no doubt that if Sudan adopts a policy to achieve all this, it will change the tense relations in this region.

Mr. President, during Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU that ended in June, Africa achieved many things, most importantly the establishment of a mechanism to prevent, handle, and resolve African disputes. This measure adds to the international efforts in this area and complements the UN role in terms of its charter and principles.

The same period also witnessed the implementation of an accord that established the African economic group, which is an important step toward boosting African economic integration into the international economic scene.

I note here that we in Africa intend to study the continent's social and economic situation out of our awareness of the importance of this problem for African society now and for future generations. This will be the subject of discussion at a special meeting of the African foreign ministers to be held in Cairo soon. Africa's share of human tragedies has been great, as shown by the events in Burundi, Rwanda, and Somalia. At a time when Africa was asserting its primary responsibility in handling these regrettable incidents by providing the necessary forces to establish and maintain peace, experience proved that human, political, and economic aspects require an effective contribution from the international community represented by the United Nations, which was what happened in the form of a unique coordination between the countries in the region and the rest of the world.

Despite the diligent African and international efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Somalia, the tragedy is continuing with the conflicts of personal interests and tribal competition. This situation has increased the frustration of the international community and has been a factor in the decision of several states to withdraw their forces.

While realizing the objective behind this and stressing that the responsibility for working out a solution in Somalia must be shouldered by the leaders of combating factions and that it is impossible for UN forces to impose a solution, we believe that we must not wash our hands of this problem. We also believe that the United Nations, OAU, and Arab League are still committed to help find a just solution to the Somali problem.

Regarding the situation in Angola, the developments there confirm that ongoing efforts will soon result in a peaceful solution. We welcome the Angolan Government's official acceptance of the proposals on national reconciliation. The proposals call for intensifying peace efforts to ensure the success of the Lusaka conference and speeding up the full implementation of the peace agreements and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

We urge UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] to show goodwill and to conduct serious negotiations for the sake of achieving a peaceful solution without delay.

Mr. Chairman: We had long hoped that when this session was held a just solution to the Bosnian problem would have been achieved. But the painful situation continues to persist. While accepting the stance of the Contact Group and its peace proposals, which were accepted by the Bosnian Government despite their shortcomings, we demand that this crisis be handled with at least the minimum degree of rationalism and justice. Frankly speaking, lifting or alleviating the embargo on the new Yugoslavia without deploying UN observers with a clear-cut mission, adequate force, and credibility on the borders and without Yugoslavia's recognition of the sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina will contribute toward obstructing the achievement of a just settlement. This will represent submission to ideals that are counter to the principles of justice and submission to the policies of aggression and racism.

The UN Security Council adopted a hasty resolution a few days ago to alleviate the sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: Serbia and Montenegro. It would have been better for the Security Council to give priority to the implementation of its resolutions, which were adopted under Chapter 7. These resolutions contained provisions and conditions that should have been carried out before any lifting or alleviating of the sanctions.

The bases of international justice should not reward the aggressor for promises that have not been kept. It also has become certain that the effectiveness of the observers on the borders is not enough.

Egypt, which participates in the United Nations Protection Forces [UNPROFOR], reiterates that the UN forces must be committed to carrying out the real protection of these areas until the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina can protect its land. The threat to withdraw the UNPROFOR under the existing force vacuum represents another step toward handing over the areas, which were under the protection of these forces, to the aggressor. The aggressor has enough power to control these areas. This matter will negatively reflect on all international relations.

Mr. Chairman: We stand at a unique historical turning point that could enable this generation to draft and crystallize the basis of a new stage. As we approach the UN 50th anniversary, we feel that we all—both advanced and developing countries alike—must take part in drafting a collective concept of the new order, a concept that could build the pillars of the future on democratic, humanitarian, and just bases.

We would like to draw attention to the fact that any attempt to minimize the role of the developing countries in drafting the world concept in this new stage would create lines of confrontation instead of those that prevailed during the Cold War. These are new lines governed by economic and development considerations and are bound to create a thick screen between the north and the south. They will also intensify factors of disputes and will contradict the mutual reliance and cohesion of the cohesion of the age. This inclusion was demanded by the developing countries during their Nonaligned Movement meeting in Cairo this summer.

If the approaching 50th anniversary brings with it initiatives for restructuring the mechanisms of the United Nations, such an endeavor will not live up to expectations unless it is accompanied, or preceded, by an intellectual reform that responds to world changes and translates the new collective vision into a program of action based on real consensus, thus providing a chance for stability in international relations. Needless to say this intellectual reform must involve all aspects of restructuring, particularly in the Security Council with its broad powers. In this regard, we demand that the process involving the Security Council include the following points:

1. It must be conducted on regional bases, not on the basis of certain countries.

2. The new seats, perhaps two additional ones each for Latin America, Asia, and Africa, must be allocated on the basis of the criteria stipulated under the UN Charter.

3. It is not necessary to name the two countries from each region that will occupy the additional seats. The seats could be filled on a rotational basis by countries that fit the criteria to be agreed upon in accordance with the principles of the Charter and the characteristics of the region involved.

4. Simultaneously, an agreement should be reached on a number of matters related to reforming the Security Council's method of action and procedures and increasing its transparency [word as heard].

5. A new veto procedure must be determined.

Finally, we must not work under pressure of time and out of a desire to finish everything before or on the 50th anniversary. A rational and acceptable reform that takes its time is better than hasty decisions that may satisfy some but anger the vast majority, which suffers from a lack of representation in the Security Council, and could make the Security Council itself lose more of its credibility. In this regard, I would like to note that, according to the criteria I mentioned earlier, a number of countries are qualified to join the Security Council, including Egypt because of its important contributions in safeguarding world peace and security at the political, social, and economic levels and in view of its efforts to establish regional peace.

Mr. President: Economic strength has become the main instrument of competition and the factor that determines the positions of influence on the international economic and political map. Social development has become a goal that we all strive to attain. Technological advancement has become the key to economic and social progress and, at the same time, an unavoidable challenge toward progress and development. Recent changes have highlighted the close link between peace, stability, and development. International stability cannot be attained without balanced and constant development. A structural imbalance in international economic relations will remain a source of social disturbances and strife, which we can now see is causing conflicts threatening world peace and security.

The United Nations—in its new journey that started in New York, Rio, and Vienna and continued in Cairo and will resume in Copenhagen and Beijing—has proved that it is still the international umbrella that can group together various ideas and positions into a single melting pot to produce comprehensive development in this world. We call on the United Nations to contribute to, or rather to lead, the process of drafting the new concepts and the modern formulas needed for the new world order and relations between the north and the south, particularly in social development. This requires the reorganization of work not only in the Security Council and the political departments but also in the economic and social areas. The United Nations is in need of a comprehensive reorganization. In the preamble to his report on UN activity during this session, the UN secretary general rejected misconceptions that the United Nations is an organization that devotes its efforts mainly to peacekeeping. He said: Economic and social matters must enjoy the greatest share of UN efforts. Thank you, Mr. President. [applause]

Musa on Syrian Track, Regional Issues

MM0410085094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Oct 94 p5

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] [Dirgham] Let us begin with the Syrian-Israeli track. Is the gap mentioned by Dennis

Ross, the U.S. peace process coordinator, so big as to prevent agreement in the coming months or are there more positive indications?

[Musa] There is a gap, there are difficult matters and major problems relating to all points on the Syrian track, but all these problems could be overcome and the gap jumped over or bridged. We faced such problems and more in the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] It has been claimed that President Hafiz al-Asad does not want to follow the Egyptian model or the Palestinian model.

[Musa] He has a right to decide what model he wants to follow. President al-Asad cannot be blamed if he wanted to follow a particular model or avoid a particular model.

[Dirgham] What, in your view, is the model which President al-Asad wants Syria to follow?

[Musa] What I wanted to say is that it is not a question of a model but of a framework. We are talking about the land-for-peace framework. [passage omitted] The Syrians say that the large area of Sinai made gradual withdrawal feasible but that is less so in the case of the Golan which is small in area. Hence the possibility of following a new method and a new approach. We hope they succeed in that.

[Dirgham] It has been claimed that agreement has almost been reached on gradual withdrawal.

[Musa] In principle, but I am talking about the length of time and the correlation between the extent of withdrawal and the extent of normalization.

[Dirgham] Is there a gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions on the correlation, interaction, and timing of the phases of withdrawal and the phases of normalization?

[Musa] In part, of course.

[Dirgham] What about the rest?

[Musa] There has been no full agreement on the issues of security measures and withdrawal. The gap is still wide but there are points on which, we assume, agreement could be reached more easily and more quickly than other points.

The atmosphere on the Syrian-Israeli track is now better than before. Detailed proposals have been exchanged but I will not go into details because Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Secretary Warren Christopher are to meet soon in Washington. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Do you see a possibility of a Syrian-Israeli agreement within two to three months or do you expect it to take seven to eight months?

[Musa] If you were to change the question to: Do you expect agreement or progress, my answer would be that I expect progress. As regards agreement, I cannot state expectations because there are so many details involved. Neither you nor I can go into such details because I know that there are military maps, withdrawal maps, and so on. I say that there is a possibility of agreement and progress within a few months but I cannot answer the particular question about agreement. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Did you discuss the Lebanese track with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, or is that frozen, with concentration focusing on the Syrian track?

[Musa] I did not discuss that with Peres. I talked about the tracks in general because the time was short. I talked mainly about disarmament in the Middle East and about the need for agreement on arms control, especially weapons of mass destruction.

[Dirgham] Did you have anything new on that, bearing in mind Israel's nuclear capabilities?

[Musa] Our position is clear. We have told the Israelis and others that we cannot possibly accept an unbalanced scale in the Middle East. We must seriously move towards the creation of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction with everyone's participation and on rules to which everyone would be committed and which would be applicable to all, including Israel. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] You said everyone. Does that also include Iran and Iraq?

[Musa] Iran is a member of the Nonproliferation Treaty and Iraq is governed by certain UN Security Council resolutions. So there is no comparison. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Did you talk about the issue of the [Palestinian] elections?

[Musa] No, that is for the Palestinians and the Israelis to talk about, and they will, in Cairo on 3 October.

[Dirgham] Egypt, which helps the Palestinian side and especially President Yasir 'Arafat, seems to be disappointed with the [Palestinian] performance. Have you contained that problem?

[Musa] There has been no Egyptian disappointment. The Palestinian administration has come under numerous pressures and criticism and we do not want that to affect or impair its effectiveness. It was and still is important that we help the Palestinian administration to enable it to gain credibility and cross the very rough seas to the shores of safety. What matters is that everyone I have talked to feels that there is tangible improvement in the performance of the Palestinian administration and a clear improvement in the way it deals with the international community and the public, and even on the security front.

[Dirgham] So those who claim that Yasir 'Arafat has not behaved like a head of state are not right?

[Musa] President 'Arafat is not a head of state. He is the head of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. We hope that he will soon become head of state. As head of the PA, he is performing very well. I and all Egypt, headed by President (Husni) Mubarak, have full confidence in Yasir 'Arafat's ability, sincerity, and success.

[Dirgham] On the question of Jordanian-Palestinian differences, there is something akin to a crisis regarding the question of the Islamic awqaf [religious trusts] and holy places in Jerusalem. How serious is that crisis?

[Musa] That is not a serious crisis. If there are differences of opinion, there is no objection to that so long as they are objective and do not follow the lines of the traditional Arab differences, and so long as there is no upstaging. I believe it will end. It is not at all in the interest of Egypt or the Arab states to create or widen any gap or let it lead to a deterioration in relations.

[Dirgham] Are you playing a part?

[Musa] We are willing to, and are doing what we can.

[Dirgham] You have met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the United Nations. What did you focus on in your talks?

[Musa] We focused on the general situation in the region and on our desire not to see any disturbances there, especially in the Gulf region. We also focused on the importance of the new spirit or the new concepts and we mentioned the good cooperation between the Iranian and Egyptian delegations at Cairo's conference on population. That cooperation was ideal and it will continue at numerous other international conferences, but there is still a need for much talking between us and the brothers in Iran in order to be able to bring matters under control and move toward good relations at the level of the entire region.

[Dirgham] Did you decide to continue to hold talks or will that be a seasonal matter?

[Musa] The talks and meetings will continue. They are now important and effective.

[Dirgham] Did you talk with Iraq?

[Musa] No.

[Dirgham] We notice that there is diplomacy here at the United Nations but escalation in the region.

[Musa] Our position is crystal clear. The brothers in Iraq and the Iraqi people are suffering, and the continuation of the sanctions is at the expense of the Iraqi people, but for the truth to prevail and for the Arab world to accept it, Iraq must take the step of recognizing (Kuwait's independence and sovereignty) unconditionally. It is a matter of principle not of deals. The entire problem from which Iraq is suffering now began with its aggression against Kuwait which it regarded as its 19th governorate. That must end and Iraq must declare to all that it recognizes Kuwait as an independent state.

[Dirgham] The Iraqi view is that willingness to implement all the Security Council resolutions implicitly includes the resolution on the Kuwaiti borders.

[Musa] We want a clear, not implied, recognition. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] The Sudanese foreign minister noticeably did not refer to the Hala'ib issue or the tension with Egypt in his UN General Assembly speech. How do you view that?

[Musa] It was a good step. I have met with [Sudanese Foreign Minister] Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih twice to talk about relations as a whole because there is much to be brought under control in Egyptian-Sudanese relations and much which the Sudanese brothers should reconsider.

[Dirgham] How would you describe relations now?

[Musa] Still tense.

Musa Returns From UN General Assembly Meeting

NC0310154194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from New York this afternoon, having taken part in the current session of UN General Assembly [UNGA].

In an arrival statement, Musa said that he met during the visit with members of the Egyptian community, Egyptian and Arab businessmen, and investors in Egypt. He added that he discussed bilateral ties and the Middle East peace process with U.S. officials. He noted that he met with many of the foreign ministers who took part in the General Assembly session.

Touching on Egypt's position on the economic summit meeting to be held in Morocco, Musa said that Egypt will take part in the summit at the political and technical levels. He added that participating states will present their views during the summit.

Commenting on his meeting with the Sudanese foreign minister in New York, Musa said that their talks were useful and that contacts will continue later through the ambassadors. He noted that the Sudanese foreign minister told him that Egypt's speech before the UNGA was welcomed in Sudan.

Musa remarked that it is in both countries' interest to continue dialogue. Hopefully, we will embark on measures that restore normalcy to relations, he said, noting that he discussed the importance of this point with the Sudanese minister and stressed the need not to take any measures that might arouse feelings. He added that the issue of Hala'ib was discussed on the sidelines of that meeting.

Tantawi Views Armed Forces Role, Hala'ib, Sudan

NC0410085794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, has asserted that Egypt has a deterrent force able to deal with any threat. He noted that the Egyptian Armed Forces are the strongest institution the nation has and that these forces can confront every threat and danger facing Egypt's security at home and abroad. He said these forces are a great asset for the civilian sector in handling sudden catastrophes.

In an interview with AL-AKHBAR to be published on Tuesday, Tantawi said the Armed Forces now have the most modern military weapons, which are compatible with our strategy and capabilities. He said the Armed Forces' personnel have achieved high standards of distinguished training that are in line with the most modern military theories. He noted that the development process also covers the Armed Forces' administration and rationalizing expenditure to accomplish their tasks in protecting national security on the least possible budget.

In his interview marking the 21st anniversary of the glorious October war, Field Marshal Tantawi said: We do not think that relaxation is the way to maintain peace, because peace must have a force to protect and secure it against every kind of foreign and internal threat and to maintain a balance of forces in the region to ensure that stability, the anchor of peace, is achieved.

He said he believed the Arab world and the Middle East have never experienced the stability and quiet in terms of security that they are experiencing now. He said that mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Accord, and ending the state of war between Jordan and Israel increase the chances of other negotiations in the peace process between Syria and Israel and Lebanon and Israel.

He said: With the completion of the peace process in which Egypt had a leading role, we expect stability to prevail in every nation in the region in view of the diminution of the threats that characterized the prepeace era. This makes the parties concerned divert their attention toward reconstruction and economic and social development.

He explained that the introduction of economic development plans as a strategic priority by the governments of the region's states will have a positive effect on the Arab countries' security and will enhance their relations, benefiting the Middle East's regional security.

He noted that Egypt's selection as one of the countries contributing to international peacekeeping operations is recognition of Egypt's strategic power and balanced position on national, pan-Arab, regional, and world levels.

He said Egypt's participation in these forces has demonstrated Egypt's military and cultural credibility, which will benefit Egypt in various aspects, helping it to gain tactical experience, learn combat techniques, and build bridges of communication with other countries.

He pointed out that Egypt was the first country in the region to adopt the strategy of diversifying armament sources. He dismissed talk that Egypt relies on the U.S. arsenal to procure its modern equipment. He said Egypt also obtains weapons and equipment from European countries, such as France and Britain, and other Eastern countries in addition to the Egyptian military factories' products that have been developed by Egyptian expertise and hands. He referred to the production of the advanced U.S. M-10 tank, the improvement of old tanks, the production of armored combat vehicles and artillery pieces of various calibers, [word indistinct] air defense systems as part of an effort to reduce dependence on military aid and foreign armament.

Asked about the Armed Forces' role as a last line of defense against extremism, Tantawi said extremism constitutes a (?threat) to Egypt's security and stability. He noted that the state has the right and is dutybound to confront every attempt to compromise its stability, national unity, and social peace.

He said: In the Armed Forces we stress cohesiveness, monitor extremism and its development, and take precautionary measures to preserve the security and safety of Armed Forces' personnel and immunize them against extremist ideas. He referred to a series of measures to prevent extremists or devious people from infiltrating the Armed Forces.

Commenting on the Hala'ib issue, he said Hala'ib is Egyptian beyond any doubt, because it is part of Egyptian territory. The first Constitution in Sudan, he added, acknowledges that Sudan is the territory that extends south of the 22d parallel. He expressed his belief that the problem was escalated by 100 years and more of Egyptian authorities' tolerance and its not demarcating the border between the two countries.

Field Marshal Tantawi stressed the historical relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese nations and not separating them. He emphasized that Egypt's stance in support of Sudan and on preserving its unity is obvious and frank despite the provocation.

Prosecution Releases Opposition Paper Editors

NC0310223194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—The prosecution in 'Abidin decided today to release on bail three editors and a (?reporter) of the opposition newspaper AL-AHRAR.

Yesterday, the security authorities arrested the men and referred them to the prosecution office on charges of rioting, resisting the authorities, and attacking security personnel while implementing a court order to evict AL-AHRAR newspaper from the building it occupied.

U.S. To Have 'Full Understanding' of Plans

NC0210090894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Hasan Salim, first under secretary of the Ministry of International Cooperation, returned to Cairo this morning from a week-long visit to the United States.

Upon arrival, Dr. Salim stated that the members of the delegation, which was led by Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, discussed the general framework of U.S. participation in the growth and development program—which President Husni Mubarak had discussed with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore—as part of the new stage of economic development in Egypt. U.S. participation, he added, involves coordination and cooperation in the fields of investment, trade, and technical aid. He added: We held intensive talks with a large number of U.S. congressional officials, during which views were exchanged on the U.S. aid program to Egypt and some new projects; most importantly, a program to train Egyptian teachers (?abroad). Dr. Salim pointed out that the discussion had resulted in a full understanding by the U.S. side of the growth and development program. The Egyptian delegation also held talks with officials in the U.S. State Department on U.S. participation in development, which would benefit the Egyptian economy, he added.

Dr. Ghali has left for Madrid to join Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. The delegation is led by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister.

Free Trade, Industrial Zone Proposed for Rafah

NC0410082094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—The board of directors of the Egyptian Industries Union has approved a project to set up a free zone in northern Sinai on the Egyptian-Palestinian-Israeli border. The goal of the project is to set up an industrial base and an industrially productive community to consolidate the Egyptian economy and contribute to national efforts to cope with global changes, particularly the economic developments expected to happen in the region.

At a meeting of the board last night, Muhammad Farid Khamis said Egypt plays a prominent role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. But he remarked that peace is now being measured by the strength of economic relations among regional states. He pointed out that the current economic developments will change the global economic map. This makes it inevitable that Egypt will play an active role in these changes and reap the potential benefits, he said.

Khamis said the union launched a series of contacts with regional states, particularly Israel and Palestine, at the beginning of 1994 to study the prospects for cooperation in the industrial and economic fields. Visits and discussion produced the important recommendation that highlighted the need to set up a free industrial zone in northern Sinai, on the Egyptian-Palestinian-Israeli border. [passage omitted]

Khamis added that the principle of setting up that free zone was fully approved during the meeting last night. The project provides for setting up a free trade and industrial zone for Egyptian products on 180 feddans in the area of Rafah. The project will provide all the necessary trade services, including banks, warehouses, showrooms, and transport. [passage omitted]

'Fugitive Terrorist' Killed South of Cairo

NC0110160094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—State security detectives have succeeded in killing fugitive terrorist Mansur Hamid Marzuq, who was sentenced in absentia in several cases.

A security source in the Ministry of Interior said that the terrorist was killed in a house the terrorist used as a hiding place in the city of al-Badrashin in al-Jizah Governorate, south of Cairo.

Palestinian Official Arrives for Aviation Meetings

NC0410075094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—Engineer Fayiz Zaydan, director general of Palestinian civil aviation, arrived in Cairo this evening to participate in two days of meetings of the heads of Arab civil aviation agencies, which are due to open Tuesday, at the invitation of Major General Sa'id 'Abd-al-Munsif, head of the Civil Aviation Authority. [passage omitted]

Zaydan said the building of an airport in Gaza has been approved and a tender expiring on 15 October has been announced for this purpose after which quick measures will be taken to construct the airport. He said it will be ready for take-off and landing within two to three months of the date the work begins.

He said there is a small landing strip near Gaza and that a study is under way to expand it for use by small aircraft.

Port Said Takes Precautions To Prevent Plague

NC0110155794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Port Said, 1 Oct (MENA)—It has been decided to prevent passengers and crews of ships arriving from Indian ports from disembarking at Port Said, as part of precautionary measures to prevent the spread of pneumonic plague and to protect citizens' health.

Security authorities in Port Said, in collaboration with the Health Administration and quarantine doctors, have taken the necessary measures to examine tourists arriving by land, who are permitted to resume their trip via Port Said.

In another development, Port Said Security Director Fu'ad Mandur has affirmed that the governorate is free of cholera and that no cases of cholera have been reported. He noted that all necessary measures have been adopted to treat any cases.

Dr. 'Ali Badawi, director general of the Port Said Health Administration, has said that all the necessary vaccines have been supplied to hospitals, health units, and medical centers.

Rights Group Concerned Over Detention of Minors

NC0210172194 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 2 (AFP)—The Egyptian authorities are holding 28 minors in jail in the troubled south of the country, many of whom have been tortured, a human rights group charged on Sunday [2 October].

The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) published a list of names of 28 people under the age of 18 who it said were being held in prison in Asyut, where Islamic militants are at war with police.

One of the children, a 12-year-old, suffered "electric shocks to his leg, penis and head, beating with a stick and blindfolded" when he was questioned at the state security headquarters in Asyut, it said.

The group said a large number of the juveniles had "complained of having been subjected to torture on arrest or later at the state security investigation headquarters.

"Tools of torture ranged from the stick to application of electric shocks to sensitive parts of the body. In all cases the juveniles were blindfolded."

The group charged the 28 had been held for between four months to more than a year on charges of belonging to the outlawed Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group), for trying to break into mosques or watching police movements.

Their names were being published to help secure their release and a fair trial.

It had raised the issue in writing with the interior ministry, the prison authority and the public prosecutor at the end of September but had received no reply.

"Keeping juveniles in adult prisons is in violation of all UN standards," the EOHR added, saying it was also in breach of the Convention on Children's Rights ratified by the Egyptian government.

It called on the government to transfer the youths to juvenile prisons and to investigate who had been responsible for putting them in adult jails.

The EOHR also urged that the names of all juveniles being held in Egypt should be published, along with the charges against them, whether they had been tried and where they were being held.

Saudi Arabia

Newspaper Blames Iran for Afghan Civil War

LD0410100594 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0309 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 4 Oct (SPA)—[passage omitted] From headlines to leading articles, which focussed on many important and prominent issues in the local, regional, and international arenas.

AL-BILAD says: It is regrettable and painful that the Afghans, who were united in resisting Soviet occupation and its lackey government in Kabul from the beginning of the 1970s through the liberation of Afghanistan, the evacuation of Soviet troops, and the fall of the Marxist regime, are now divided and are slaughtering and fighting each other. Their conflict is destroying the country for the freedom of which they engaged in a struggle that won them the admiration and respect of the world.

The paper poses the question: What has happened and is happening in Afghanistan? It goes on: This question may seem baffling. However, there are threads which will lead one to the correct answer. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fully supported the Afghan mojahedin when they were united by the noble jihad because the Saudi leaders believed that they were defending a just and true cause, and that they were supporting brother Muslims in a land that is dear to the Islamic world as a whole.

The paper stresses that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia never had any ambitions in Afghanistan, and the kingdom will never have a role in Afghanistan. The kingdom never offered its support to a just and true cause for any reason except to support what is true and just in that cause and its champions, whether far or near.

The paper adds: Therefore, we have to ask who is playing havoc in Afghanistan, and who is exploiting the situation in a country which has just emerged from a great jihad, in every sense of the word, against occupying forces, to rebuild itself and to reconstruct after the destruction caused by years of war. It is no secret that the first to blame are the Afghan people themselves, and then the Tehran regime which has kindled the fire in Afghanistan and which has come between the jihad brothers, divided them, and torn them apart.

The paper says: The Muslim Afghan people are experiencing the most serious ordeal in their modern history. Therefore, they have to be alert and to recognize neighbor-enemies who pretend to be concerned about the Afghans' freedom and security while burning down every hope of security and peace in Afghanistan, feeding with their malice and ambitions the fires of civil war so that Afghanistan will remain a great fire that will not go out until it consumes everything.

Media View Situation in Iran, Relations

LD0410114994 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0309 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 4 Oct (SPA)—On the reported Russian cancellation of Iranian Defense Minister Mohammed Foruzandeh's visit to Moscow, planned for next month, 'AL-MADINAH' says: The decision is a severe blow to the strategy which has been trying, with blatant intensity for years, to complete a broad scheme in which Iran's intention to possess weapons of mass destructions is quite obvious.

The paper says: There is a pressing need for regional and international stances to restrict the scope of the Iranian regime's movement, either by exposing that dubious scheme, or by exercising whatever pressure is possible on the countries which yield to Iranian demands due to limited local considerations and urgent economic needs.

The paper adds: The Russian move to cancel the visit constitutes a first step toward an awareness of the threats posed by the Iranian endeavor. However, it is absolutely not enough in a world which is suffering from a clear lack of control over weapons of mass destruction, particularly in the Soviet region since the fall of Communism. [passage omitted]

In its editorial, 'AL-YAWM' says: We have become used to the Tehran regime launching a media campaign against outsiders, including the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in order to divert the people's wrath outside its borders whenever it experiences a crisis which destabalizes it.

The paper pointed out: The hollow media campaigns launched by the Iranian regime against the Kingdom have coincided with the collapse of the Iranian currency against hard currencies over a period of two weeks, and it was during those two weeks that the Iranian media campaign against the Kingdom was witnessed. [passage omitted]

Mufti Opposes Distribution of Rights Bulletins

MM0410095194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Saudi Clerics Forbid Distribution of al-Mas'ari Bulletins"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, AL-HAYAH—A fomer member of the so-called "Legitimate Rights Committee" based in London has criticized the distribution of that committee's bulletins by fax machines.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Jibrin, one of the Muslim ulema known to have the right to issue religious fatwas [edicts], has spoken out against the distribution by fax machines of the bulletins issued and disseminated by Muhammad al-Mas'ari, who is currently in London and who heads the so-called "Legitimate Rights Committee."

In a handwritten message carrying his seal and his signature, Shaykh al-Jibrin said: "I believe that they should not be distributed or published regardless of whether they are true or not. That is because they divulge secrets and report mistakes which might have been justified without him knowing that. Most probably, he drafts them as he likes and he exaggerates criticism, much of which may be untrue. He should have offered advice and shown the right way to whoever erred."

The message which carries the fatwa of Shaykh al-Jibrin, who is a mufti at the Shari'ah and Fatwa Research Authority in Riyadh, is understood to mean that he was accusing Muhammad al-Mas'ari of exaggerated criticism of the kingdom in his letters and bulletins and that much of the contents of these letters and bulletins are "untrue." [passage omitted]

The significance of Shaykh al-Jibrin's fatwa stems from the fact that he was one of the founders of the so-called "Legitimate Rights Committee" in May 1993 but he withdrew from it after the Saudi Senior Ulema Council's fatwa that that committee was illegitimate.

It should be noted that a number of senior Muslim ulema and clerics in Saudi Arabia issued statements and published letters in the kingdom in the past few days underlining the importance of preserving Islamic unity of ranks behind their leadership and the importance of obedience and loyality to the Muslim imams. [passage omitted]

Four Filipinos, 3 Pakistanis Beheaded in Jeddah

LD3009134294 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Sep 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Interior Ministry today issued a statement saying that four Filipinos, who carried out acts of burglary and theft, killed two members of a security patrol, and murdered and stole from peaceful persons while they were in their homes, were executed today. [passage omitted]

The executions took place today, Friday 30 September, in the city of Jeddah in the Mecca region. [passage omitted]

Also today, the execution by beheading was carried out of the following persons: Riyad Samra Qaisar; Gholam Nabi Talib; Muhammad Sharif Jaiboun—all Pakistanis. They were convicted of murdering Muhammad Bin-'Ali-Bin-Salih al-Bishri, robbing him of the money he had on him, and throwing his body into a well. [passage omitted]

The lawful sentence was carried out on the criminals today, Friday 30 September, in the city of Jeddah in the Mecca region. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Asks 'Abd-al-Ghani To Form New Government

JN0310200194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1846 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 3 Oct (INA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has entrusted 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the former Presidential Council, with forming the new Yemeni government.

Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Attar, Yemeni acting prime minister, tendered the resignation of his government to the Yemeni president yesterday. President Salih accepted his resignation and asked him to carry on conducting his duties until a new Yemeni government is formed.

An INA correspondent in Sanaa says that the final composition of the new Yemeni government will be announced next week.

It is noteworthy that 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, the new prime minister, is the assistant secretary general of the General People's Congress. He had been asked to form three Yemeni governments. The first was from 1975-78, the second from 1978-80, and the third from 1983-90, when the Yemeni unity was proclaimed.

Southern Figures Announce Opposition Front

NC0310122594 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Oct 94 p 13

[Unattributed AL-SAFIR report from London]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The formation of a National Opposition Front [al-jabhah al-wataniyah al-mu'aridah] [NOF] in Yemen was announced in London yesterday. The front is primarily made up of Yemeni leaders who fled the country following the defeat of the secessionist attempt in south Yemen in July. The announcement coincides with the presidential elections slated to be held at the Yemeni parliament today following the amendments introduced to the Constitution. The amendments abrogate the five-member Presidential Council.

The announcement was made in a press conference held at the Grosvenor Hotel in central London yesterday in the presence of 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, who was appointed vice president of the "southern state"; Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party and member of the presidential council; former Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, former minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, former Presidential Council member Sulayman Farid, Muhsin Muhammad Bin-Farid and Zu-al-Nawrayn Sadiq, leaders of the League of Yemeni Sons; Brigadier General Salih 'Abd Ahmad; and Sayf al-'Araoi.

Al-Asnaj read the front's statement in the presence of a large number of representatives of the Arab and foreign press in London. Al-Asnaj emphasized that the current regime in Sanaa is a "dictatorial, military, and tribal" regime and accused it of humiliating south Yemen. He called for a referendum on the government's performance. [passage omitted]

Al-Asnaj added: The NOF leadership, while calling on all national forces to work for the nation's dignity, pride, and freedom, declares the following:

First. Its rejection of the results of the war and intention to eliminate its consequences...[ellipsis as published], in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931 and all Arab and international initiatives and statements.

Second. Its rejection of all attempts to wipe out the identity of the south and humiliate people there through weapons, oppression, and domination...[ellipsis as published], as was the case in the northern provinces and regions, which is also rejected.

Third. The NOF seeks to achieve a comprehensive national reconciliation with the purpose of:

1. Rehabilitating the south.

2. Remedying the wounds caused by political and social conflicts in all its stages:

a. Among southerners.

b. Among northerners.

c. Between north and south.

3. Laying down sound foundations and formulas to establish a "unity" based on the substance of the Pledge and Accord Document.

4. Holding a general popular referendum in all northern and southern provinces on a "unity" formula acceptable to our people.

Fourth. The NOF seeks to end the domination of the factional military and intelligence alliance...[ellipsis as published].

Fifth. The NOF is committed to democracy, the human rights charter, and to building a free national economy.

Sixth. The NOF will exert intensive efforts to rectify our country's relations with neighboring, Arab, other Islamic, and friendly countries. The NOF stresses the importance of strengthening Arab and Islamic relations and ties, especially between the Arabian peninsula countries, as strategic relations and ties that aim to link the region and its peoples through joint and intertwined economic, political, and social interests.

In reply to a question, al-Jifri said that the new alliance is committed to exerting peaceful pressure on President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to make him sit down with the Yemeni opposition at the negotiating table in order to discuss national unity in Yemen.

But officials in the new opposition did not rule out a resort to force if all other means fail.

When asked whether force will be forced in the end, al-'Attas said: "We cannot say no."

Al-'Attas insinuated that the new opposition enjoys the support of the United Nations and the Security Council members. He said that contacts are continuing with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Bin-Farid said: "If we are compelled to use other means, then the events will be more atrocious than those that happened."

Salim Salih said that 'Ali Salim al-Bid is aware with this action and we are in touch with him, but we respect hospitality. He added that there is in addition his health condition. He stressed that "many elements are in touch with us."

Salim Salih admitted that many mistakes were made in the past, which we hope will not be repeated. He heralded a new school of political action with this front.

For his part, al-Asnaj stressed that the opposition will be inside the country and London is only for media purposes. He underlined the unity of stand and real democracy. He then detailed the problem with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Salim Salih stressed that "all the brothers are invited to help, especially Saudi Arabia and the Gulf." He hinted at a general satisfaction with the Saudi stand and attacked the coupist mentality of the Yemeni president. He said: "Any unity has to be a balanced one between all the provinces."

In reply to another question, al-Asnaj said that Europe, the United States, and the Gulf states want political stability in Yemen and that he believes there is sufficient international support to exert pressure on the Yemeni Government to negotiate with the new opposition.

On the possibility of resorting to armed struggle, al-Jifri said: "If we call on them (his supporters) to do something now, then they will do it. We do not want this to happen and we do not want to be forced or to have our people forced to do so. We are so far using peaceful pressure inside and outside the country and we will use demonstrations, riots, and civil disobedience."

More on Southern Opposition Front

MM0310155994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Oct 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah and Hammud Munsir: "Southern Opposition Front Formed on Eve of Yemeni President Election"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] London, Sanaa—On the eve of the election of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, as president under a new constitutional system, the southern

Yemeni leadership announced yesterday the establishment of the National Opposition Front. Its members did not rule out the use of force among its "legitimate means," in an expression of their rejection of "Yemeni unity in its present form imposed by the north's occupation of the south."

The coincidence of the two events points to a kind of undeclared race between the Yemeni leadership which triumphed in the war and the southern leadership which lost the war and which continues to insist on "the legitimacy and justness of the south's cause" and on rejecting the new reality resulting from the war.

At a news conference which witnessed the announcement of the opposition front, Salim Salih Muhammad [former assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party] stressed that "southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid supports the idea of announcing the front. But out of respect for [Omani] hospitality, he has not announced that." 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri [leader of the Sons of Yemen League] said that al-Bid "is in good health, even though he is is still suffering from some effects of his illness. However, he blesses this step." [passage omitted]

Salim Salih accused the Yemeni authorities of "trying to use the methods that prevailed in the sixties and which are no longer prevalent. The world deals with issues, not accusations, especially those related to human rights and the erasing of peoples' identities."

Southern officials' statements stressed that "the justness of our cause is a sound foundation for the outside world's sympathy, because of the continued mentality of the domination and abolition of others and not seeing southerners as brothers equal to northerners."

The statements also included the need "to struggle by all legitimate means." They did not rule out military action if the other means fail.

GPC Leader on Opposition, National Affairs

JN0210162694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Ansi, head of the GPC General Committee, in Yemen, by Ahmad Birru; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Birru] Will the new government be a coalition incorporating the same partners as in the outgoing cabinet?

[Al-'Ansi] In accordance with parliamentary and constitutional rules, the government will be formed by the parties with a majority in the House of Representatives—the GPC, the Yemeni Reform Grouping, YRG, and, possibly, representatives of certain smaller groups. This will depend on the consultations the president is holding now.

[Birru] Will the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] join the new coalition?

[Al-'Ansi] As I have said, this will depend on the outcome of the ongoing consultations. If a YSP member does join, it will be in a personal, independent capacity. This is because the YSP has yet to condemn secession or define its position officially on the former separatist leaders of the party who are now in foreign countries.

[Birru] The recent constitutional amendments, most observers note, favor the YRG, specifically regarding the clause stating that Islam will be the source of legislation in Yemen. Is this a fair assessment?

[Al-'Ansi] Absolutely not. That Islam will be the source of legislation was part of the constitutional amendments approved by the YSP, GPC, and YRG immediately after the parliamentary elections. The amendment reflects a universal consensus within the Yemeni population, which yearns for freedom and democracy and a state of respectable constitutional institutions and Islamic sharia to which the entire community owes allegiance. We have no sensitivities toward the Islamic sharia since it is universally agreed that sharia must be the source of legislation. The amendments have been thoroughly debated insofar as economic and other issues are concerned, including local administration. These amendments have won the approval of all political forces in Yemen.

[Birru] Some observers contend that Yemen is headed in the direction of becoming another Sudan. More specifically, that the YRG will be the dominant force in the country?

[Al-'Ansi] No, this is not true. If we believe in political pluralism and, having opened the door for all parties, why would an Islamic party that operates in the open rather than underground and believes in a peaceful rotation of power, want to work in the dark and seek a monopoly of power? The door is open to all forces. I and the GPC see the YRG as one of the nationalist parties that has done its part in defending unity and constitutional legitimacy and democracy. The YRG is not the ruling party, nor can one to say that it is about to take control. The GPC won more than 140 seats in the parliament, and the YRG and the YSP 65 each. I don't see the logic of the statement that the YRG controls the country. Only those who want to see a Yemen riven by contention promote this idea.

[Birru] We hear a great deal about disturbances and chaos, especially in Aden. We also hear about continuing chaos and the parties that were ranged against the YSP, like supporters of the YRG, al-Jihad, and abuses of public places. How accurate are such reports?

[Al-'Ansi] These are exaggerations. Since the beginning of the political crisis and even since the victory over the secessionists, Yemen has been the target of an unfair media campaign. Stability now prevails and is growing stronger with each passing day. Aden itself now enjoys peace. If some extremists exaggerate, this does not mean that there are extremist groups. They are groups of unrestrained youths inspired by some extreme ideas about the graves. It is not true that there is a jihad organization. A committee went there and carried out investigations. Such talk is propagated by spiteful Arab and Western media.

[Birru] Attacks were carried out at public institutions and...

[Al-'Ansi, interrupting] Yes, this happened a day before the YSP withdrew. We have tapes of the voices of the leaders of secession giving orders to their retreating soldiers to smash and blow up everything so that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih can arrive to rule over wrecked institutions. That is why they destroyed, looted, and burned many establishments in Aden. These abuses were carried out by deviant gangs in the YSP. [passage omitted]

[Birru] According to some press reports, the leaders that spearheaded the attempted secession set up a front it called the National Opposition Front, incorporating the League of the Sons of Yemen Party and former foreign minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj and leaders of the Socialist Party.

[Al-'Ansi] That is true. This is despicable. The league now functions in Sanaa and Aden and a month ago dismissed 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri and Muhsin [surname indistinct] and others who had plotted against Yemeni unity. They are in the same position as Salim Salih, Haydar 'Abbas, and Sulayman Nasir and others who were in the YSP. As for their setting up a party in five-star hotels, this is good news. They might have learned from past mistakes. The opposition, including the YSP, maintains a presence in Sanaa. The country is open to dialogue. But they insist on continuing to be manipulated by others. The people could not help laughing yesterday when they heard about the formation of the front. [passage omitted]

[Birru] Do you think they receive external support, and, if they do, from where?

[Al-'Ansi] Yes; that they get external support and from where is common knowledge. People know that the conference that was held in London yesterday to announce the front was convened after they held a meeting in a sisterly Arab state that I do not want to name and which bankrolls such hostile activities. [passage omitted]

House Issues Decision on Constitutional Amendments

JN0110155994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Oct 94

[Decision issued by the House of Representatives on 1 October—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] House of Representatives decision No. 12 for the year 1994 regarding constitutional amendments.

In the name of the people.

Speaker of the House of Representatives: After taking cognizance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and of Law No. 5 of the year 1990 regarding the bylaws of the House of Representatives; based on Article 29 of the Constitution; in accordance with the application submitted by more than one third of the House members regarding the amendment; in light of the decision the House of Representatives adopted during its session on 13 Safar, 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 4 August, 1993, approving the principle of amendment according to the memorandum of reasons supporting constitutional amendment; after the elapse of a specific period of time on the Constitution following the House's approval of the principle of amendment; in light of reports submitted to the house by the special committees formed by the house for this purpose; after the House of Representatives discussed the articles to be amended; and after the House of Representatives approved the final form of amendments during its session on 23 Rabi' al-Thani, 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 29 September, 1994, with a majority of 252 votes of those who attended, that is, 26 votes more than the required majority of three fourths of the members of the House of Representatives, which equals 226 of the 301 votes, in accordance with the Constitution; the House of Representatives decided the following:

Article 1: The House of Representatives, during its session on 23 Rabi' al-Thani, 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 28 September, 1994, approved amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen affecting 82 articles as enclosed in this decision as follows:

1. Amending 52 articles.
2. Adding 29 articles.
3. Canceling only one article.

Thus, there will be 159 articles in the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen after amendment.

Article 2: Classifying and numbering the articles of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen in its final form in accordance with the approval of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee and in light of the House's request upon approving the constitutional amendments.

Article 3: This decision shall take effect as of its issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued by the House of Representatives in Sanaa on 26 Rabi' al-Thani, 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 1 October, 1994.

[Signed] 'Abdallah Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives

Former Official Views West's Policy, Embargo

MS0410105594 London THE GUARDIAN in English 4 Oct 94 p 13

[Article by unidentified former senior Baghdad Official: "Hawks and Doves Battle Over Iraq"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Of the international sanctions imposed on Iraq during and after the Gulf war only one, the oil embargo, was linked to clearly defined conditions: that to sell petroleum freely again Baghdad must allow the destruction of its weapons of mass destruction and subsequent monitoring of its weapons systems.

These conditions, imposed by the United Nations, are close to being met. But the oil embargo remains, and there is talk among some in the Western alliance of adding new conditions before the sanctions which have all but destroyed one of the most advanced countries in the developing world are lifted.

Now the Clinton administration is undermining the Iraqi opposition by insisting that whoever eventually succeeds Saddam Husayn will have to comply with all the security council resolutions.

The long-term international monitoring of Iraq's industry, envisaged in resolutions 687 and 715, would be tantamount to placing Iraq under permanent international tutelage.

If the UN decides to saddle a successor Iraqi government with all the stringent measures that shackle the country at present, it is doubtful whether anyone with any self-respect will undertake to govern Iraq after President Saddam.

The Iraqi people will wonder why such a government, surrounded by covetous and hostile neighbours, should agree to being disarmed while others in the region are allowed to stock-pile conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction.

When he met the leaders of the Iraqi National Congress last year the U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, said he found it inconceivable that President Saddam could obey the security council resolutions and stay in power. It seems equally inconceivable that his successors could remain in power if the same conditions were applied.

Many Iraqis wonder whether the intention is to keep their country weak and impoverished. They fear that the policy of containment by diplomatic, military, economic and technological isolation may be applied to Iraq even it the present regime is removed.

Mr. Christopher alluded to such a possibility when he told a senate committee last year that he was as worried about President Saddam's successors as he was about him. Such hostility towards post-Saddam Iraq is unwarranted and short-sighted.

If the U.S. and its allies are serious about ending President Saddam's oppressive rule and genuinely interested in the well-being of the Iraqi people they should state clearly and unequivocally that they will strive to enable the people of Iraq to choose a new government through internationally-conducted and supervised elections.

They should make it clear that once such a government is installed all the punitive and one-sided resolutions of the security council will be reviewed with a view to alleviating the crushing burdens and suffering of the Iraqi people.

A lot will depend on a clear statement that Iraq under a successor government will be treated differently and with greater sympathy and understanding. This will encourage many Iraqis who have not yet joined the opposition to do so.

Iraqis inside and outside their country must be convinced that the removal of the present regime will lead to the lifting of sanctions and end Iraq's isolation. Many Iraqis believe—wrongly in my opinion—that some Western and regional states want the present regime to stay in power as the best means of marginalising Iraq and preventing it from realising its great potential.

The question that has not been answered is how and by what means Iraq will evolve from the present dictatorship to a democratic pluralistic society. In the end it will be up to the Iraqi people and them alone to save their country.

Iraqis living outside their country can be the catalyst for change if they organise themselves in a united front, pledging themselves to ask the UN to hold and supervise elections in which all political parties, including the ruling Ba'athists, will be allowed to participate.

Once such a united opposition front is established, it should be recognised as the legitimate government of Iraq and given the right to represent Iraq in the UN and its agencies. Deprived thus of the last vestiges of its international legitimacy, the present regime would loose all credibility, and its early demise would inevitably follow.

Some doubts have been expressed about Iraq's ability to develop into a viable democracy because of the ethnic, religious and sectarian divisions in Iraqi society. Two such divisions are frequently mentioned, the ethnic differences between Kurds and Arabs and the alleged hostility between Shiite and Sunni.

The Kurdish problem in Iraq is not new. It was not created by the present Iraqi regime, but greatly exacerbated by its oppression and brutality.

In 1925, an overwhelming majority of the Kurdish people in northern Iraq decided in a free consultation conducted by the League of Nations to join the newly established Iraqi state, which recognised the Kurds' distinct national identity and granted them rights and privileges undreamt of by their compatriots in Turkey and Iran.

Successive Iraqi governments from the inception of the state in 1921 to the present day have tried and failed to meet Kurdish demands for greater autonomy. A new Iraqi government must conclude an agreement with the representatives of the Kurdish people for the establishment of an autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq.

It should not be difficult to satisfy most of the Kurdish demands, because there are no deep-rooted antagonism or historic feuds between the Arabs and the Kurds in Iraq. The recent excesses and cruelties of the regime are an aberration and an exception.

The sectarian difference between Sunni and Shiite have been grossly exaggerated. The portrayal of Iraq as a country torn between two mutually hostile sects fighting for supremacy is far from the truth.

The division of the Arab population between Shiite and Sunni is an artificial one, encouraged and fomented by a handful of extremists and zealots on both sides. The theological differences between the two sects are negligible and the frictions and mutual distrust inherited from centuries of Turco-Iranian rivalry for domination of Iraq have all but disappeared thanks to the spread of education and intermarriage.

The recent attempts by the present regime and some of its opponents to revive those old antagonisms have failed. Iraqis are not going to commit collective suicide and plunge their country in the kind of sectarian strife that destroyed Lebanon and Bosnia.

Iraqi society has remained basically secular in outlook despite the recent wave of religious fundamentalism in the Arab and Islamic worlds. The tradition of secular nationalism is very strong in Iraq and will remain so in the foreseeable future.

A rich country with an educated and hard-working population, Iraq, under wise and enlightened leadership, can become a model of democracy and progress, a bulwark against all forms of extremism and intolerance in the Middle East, and a dependable and worthwhile friend.

Arms Sale Requests Submitted to Russia in Jul

JN0310214594 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 30 Sep 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] New York, the United Nations; Nicosia, agencies; Moscow-AL-JAZIRAH, Ivan Men'shikov, Tunis Bureau—Russian experts at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations have revealed that Tariq Hanna 'Aziz, deputy prime minister of the Iraqi regime, submitted a host of proposals to Russian officials during a secret visit he made to [St.] Petersburg in July regarding future Iraqi purchases of sophisticated Russian arms and military equipment once the international sanctions clamped on Iraq since the start of the Gulf crisis are lifted.

The experts added that the Iraqi regime submitted specific arms purchase requests to the Russians in this regard.

In a separate development, Russian experts said that Iraq owes Russia $7 billion. The means of repaying this debt, as well as the ways to settle new arms purchases were discussed during this secret visit. [passage omitted]

Britain reiterated at the UN Headquarters in New York yesterday its strong opposition to any moves aimed at lifting the oil embargo imposed on the Iraqi regime even if this regime recognizes the sovereignty of Kuwait and the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders demarcated by a UN special committee.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said that there should not be any timeframe for testing the long-term monitoring regime designed to ensure that the Iraqi regime will not rebuild its mass destructions weapons capability.

It is noteworthy that instituting the UN monitoring regime is the last move in the plan to disarm Iraq before the UN Security Council can debate the lifting of the oil embargo.

Shiite Advisor Reportedly Killed on Saddam's Orders

NC0210195494 Paris AFP in English 1816 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Oct 2 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn ordered the assassination of one of his advisors for suspected contacts with opposition groups, the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) said Sunday [2 October].

Shiite advisor Kan'an Mustafa Kan'an was shot dead "with his cousin and driver in an ambush carried out on September 12 by the authorities of dictator Saddam Husayn," the INC said in a statement sent to AFP.

The attack on the al-Basrah-to-al-Faw road in southern Iraq "was planned because of rumours of contacts with the opposition," the INC added.

Shaykh Kan'an belonged to the Tamim tribe, one of the largMstand oldest Shiite tribes in Iraq.

According to the INC, he had taken part in the uprising in southern Iraq following the January-February 1991 Gulf war. But he was pardoned by Saddam and taken on as an advisor.

UN's Rolf Ekeus Arrives in Baghdad

JN0310212794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2108 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, arrived in Baghdad at noon today at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq that will last several days.

Ekeus stated that he would hold talks with Iraqi officials and that he was committed to submit his special report to the Security Council on 10 October. The delegation includes Tim Trivan [name as transliterated], official spokesman for the UN Special Commission.

BABIL's Threat to UN Surveillance Program Cited

NC0210170894 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] As Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN commission charged with removing weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, prepares to leave for Baghdad to see to the long-term surveillance of Iraq's armament program, the newspaper BABIL issued by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn has warned that the Iraqi regime will prevent the United Nations from monitoring Iraq's arms program unless it eases the international sanctions imposed on the Baghdad regime. This is considered a clear threat and a flagrant defiance of the UN resolutions issued against the Iraqi regime following its invasion of Kuwait.

Opposition Said Hiding Chemical Weapons in Depots

MM3009151594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition: Saddam Hides Chemical Weapons in Mojahedin-e Khalq Stores"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Citing "well-informed sources," an Iraqi opposition organization says that the Iraqi Government has hidden chemical weapons and materials used in their manufacture in stores belonging to the Mojahedin-e Khalq, the Iranian opposition organization based in Iraq. This came in a statement issued by the support office of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI]. The statement, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT received a copy, says that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn took that step because the Mojahedin-e Khalq camps and centers were not subject to international inspection and search for mass destruction weapons.

Quoting the same sources, the statement confirms that a secret agreement was concluded between Saddam Husayn and Mas'ud Rajavi, the leader of that organization, in which the latter undertakes to guard these weapons and lethal materials and camouflage their locations with markings indicating they belong to his forces.

The statement also says that the Iraqi regime previously resorted to two methods of hiding its lethal weapons: One by mounting them on trucks that would keep moving on the various roads and areas, and the other by storing them in remote desert areas, on river banks, or in inaccessible mountain areas. The SAIRI statement adds that the Iraqi regime is trying hard to import raw materials necessary for the manufacture of chemical weapons via Jordan.

Decree on Transfer of Real Estate Ownership

JN0210165894 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 22 Sep 94 p 3

[Revolution Command Decree No. 158 dated 12 September 1994]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council

Decree No. 158 dated 7 Rabi' al-Awwal 1415 Hegira corresponding to 12 September 1994.

Decree:

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: Procedures on the transfer of ownership of real estate belonging to the state or to natural or corporate persons and which are situated within the basic planning boundaries of the City of Baghdad or within the basic planning boundaries of the districts and subdistricts of the Baghdad Governorate shall not be registered unless the person to whom ownership is transferred was enrolled in the census of 1957, or any census prior to that in one of those areas or in the areas that fell within the Baghdad Governorate before the creation of Salah al-Din Governorate.

Second: The provisions of Paragraph "First" of this decree do not apply to the transfer of ownership due to death.

Third: This decree shall be enforced as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council

Decree on Students' Military Service, Exemptions

JN0210125294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Oct 94

["Text" of Revolution Command Council Decree No. 166]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq

The Revolution Command Council [RCC]

Decree No. 166

Date of Decree: 20 Rabi' al-Thani 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 25 September 1994

Decree:

Based on the provisions of Paragraph "A" of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decreed the following:

1. The compulsory military service and the reserve service of students studying abroad who have no school files or whose records are flagged [aina al-ladhin laysat lahum malaffatun dirasiyatun wal muraqqanah quyuduhum], shall be postponed for that period of time which is fixed by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research when opening school files for them.

2. The students who have completed their study and obtained a certificate shall be pardoned of the crime of failing to report for compulsory military service or reserve service, providing that they should return to the country during the validity of this decree.

3. Students who have already obtained or those who will obtain a certificate from outside Iraq shall join compulsory military service and reserve service six months after they come back to the country.

4. Cash payment, equivalent to 1,000 Iraqi dinars in foreign currency and at the official price, shall be accepted from students studying abroad who have failed to report to compulsory military service and reserve service, after which they shall be exempted from military service and of all the penalties related to their failure or violation of the provisions of the Military Service Law No. 65 of 1969 and its amendments.

5. RCC Decree No. 827, issued on 26 June 1982, shall be abrogated.

6. The ministers of defense and higher education and scientific research shall be entrusted with issuing instructions to facilitate the implementation of this decree.

7. This decree shall be effective as of the date it is published in the Official Gazette for one year.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

Foreign Ministry Refutes Iranian Claims on POW's

JN0210131294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, an official Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated the following:

The official Iranian News Agency [IRNA] on Thursday, 29 September 1994, carried a statement attributed to Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran, head of the Iranian POW's Commission, in which he once again claimed that Iraq is holding approximately 32,000 Iranian military and civilian POW's, including a number of Iranian soldiers who have been detained in Iraq since 1973.

These empty and baseless allegations once again expose the Iranian regime's refusal to frankly inform the Iranian peoples of the true facts about the number of Iranians killed during the Khomeyni regime's aggression against Iraq. This statement is an attempt by Iran to evade its obligations in accordance with the Geneva conventions, which necessitate that it cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

Nazaran knows full well, and better than any other Iranian official, that Iraq has released all the Iranian POW's and that they were returned to Iran under the supervision of the ICRC. The number of POW's who were released was 39,044. Iraq does not currently hold any Iranian POW's, except a limited number of Iranians who have refused to return to Iran, and who have confirmed this position several times in front of the representatives of the ICRC, as well as in front of the Iranian delegation that visited them and spoke to them at the end of 1990.

Several times in the past Iraq has replied to such deceptive statements. Out of appreciation for the current efforts being exerted by the ICRC to get Iran to release all the Iraqi POW's, which are being coordinated with the UN secretary general, the UN Security Council, and the other competent international organizations, we find that the best reply to Nazaran's statements is to remind him of the ICRC report. We will allow the ICRC efforts to take their course, based on the provisions of the international humanitarian law and away from the propaganda of the Iranian side's attempts to cheat and deceive the Iranian people, which serves no purpose other than to prolong the suffering of the Iraqi POW's in violation of the teachings of true Islam, the other humanitarian values, and the principles of international humanitarian law.

Iraq is ready to find curative solutions to the POW problem. It will spare no effort to cooperate with the ICRC and the other international sides to achieve this humanitarian objective. We hope that these sides will exert pressure on Iran to secure the release of all the registered and nonregistered Iraqi POW's. Based on this, we have requested a meeting of the tripartite technical committee to discuss all issues pertaining to the POW's and the missing. We call on Iran to fully abide by the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 on the treatment of POW's, and to end the suffering of the Iraqi POW's from the inhuman situation in which the Iranian regime has unjustifiably placed them by force for more than 10 years.

Food Prices Jump After UN Decision on Embargo

NC0110173794 Paris AFP in English 1614 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 1 (AFP)—The price of some basic foods in Iraq has doubled in the past week following a UN decision to keep up a four-year-old embargo which has hit the Iraqi economy hard.

On Saturday [1 October] a litre of oil was selling for 500 dinars compared with 250 dinars, a kilo of rice had lept from 180 dinars to 250 and sugar prices had soared from 250 dinars a kilo to 550 dinars.

These foods are among those rationed by Iraqi authorities since the UN embargo was imposed following Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Traders said the price of basic foodstuffs could sharply increase again if the embargo continues.

Last Sunday the government for the first time cut the individual monthly rations of flour, rice, sugar and oil because of the "injust embargo and the recorded cut in cereal harvests during the last agricultural season."

The decision was announced just after the UN Security Council decided at its regular two-monthly review not to lift the sanctions, despite growing calls for an easing of the embargo.

The increase in prices came as the official Iraqi press heaped accusations on the United States for "pressurising the United Nations" to keep up the embargo.

The official daily AL-JUMHURIYAH on Saturday warned Iraq could retaliate if the United States insisted on maintaining the UN trade embargo, kept in place after Iraq was ousted from Kuwait in the January-February 1991 Gulf war.

President Saddam Husayn on Wednesday called on Iraqis to be patient and told the ruling Ba'th party leaders that Washington and London had stopped the UN sanctions committee giving Iraq permission to buy rice and corn from developing countries.

Baghdad has also warned it would refuse to accept long-term weapons monitoring by the United Nations unless the embargo was lifted.

At the official exchange rate the US dollar is equivalent to 500 Iraqi dinars, but on Saturday the greenback was being sold on the black market for close to 600 dinars.

Rabin Speaks at Opening of Winter Knesset Session

TA0310163194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1410 GMT 3 Oct 94

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the opening of the winter session of the Knesset in Jerusalem—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Honorable President, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Knesset: It is to be hoped that this is the dawn of a new year and, in the name of the government, I wish to congratulate the members of the Knesset and their families; the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and the members of the security services, those who stand guard for us; and all the people of Israel.... [Rabin's remarks interrupted by Likud Knesset Member Tzahi Hanegbi, who is forcibly removed from the plenum for trying to play a recording of previous Rabin statements] What he [Hanegbi] did makes no difference. He agreed to the evacuation of Rafah; therefore, he has no right to talk.

I reiterate: I wish the members of the Knesset, their families, the IDF soldiers and the members of all the security services who stand guard for us, and all the people of Israel a happy new year, a year of ongoing success, a year of peace, a year of security, and the hope that, as it is written: And I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid; and I will remove evil beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land. [Leviticus 22:6]

We face the start of the new year stronger than ever, with more conviction than ever, and in 5755 we hope, pray, and say: This may be the year of peace with all the Arab states and with the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho, in Amman and in Damascus, in Beirut and in Cairo, and in Jerusalem. We will bid shalom to each other.

Members of the Knesset, year after year, speech after speech, Israeli prime ministers have stood at this podium: David Ben-Gurion and Moshe Sharet, Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir, Menahem Begin, all of blessed memory, as well as Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir. They appealed from this podium to the Arab rulers; they called for peace and invited them to this house to be partners in the journey toward peace.

We believe that this house in Jerusalem; this house, which for a generation has heard our voices calling out for peace; this house, which saw our hands outstretched in peace; this house, which saw us in our finest hours and in our most painful moments, will perhaps as early as this year host the king of Jordan, the Syrian president, the president of Lebanon, and others who will come to the gates of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city of peace.

Members of the Knesset, the festive atmosphere that embraces every Jewish home each year in the Jewish month of Tishrey has also been accompanied by a lot of pain over the past 21 years. Since that Yom Kippur, 21 years have passed. We have experienced a great deal, both good and bad. A generation has gone and a new generation has come. We have forgotten a lot of the events in our lives, we have wiped them from our memories, but we have not forgotten the events of that day, and the voices reverberate in our ears as though it happened yesterday. We remember every moment of that day, everything we did and everything we said. The festive atmosphere and the quiet in the streets, the masses praying in the synagogues, the military vehicles violating the sanctity of the holy day, the questions we asked and to which we had no answers at that time, the siren at 1400.

History does not recognize the concept of: if. We are still shackled by the bitter memory of that Yom Kippur. We are not free of the events. We cannot ask: What would have happened had things gone differently? Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat said at the time, and I quote: I am prepared to sacrifice the lives of 1.5 million Egyptian soldiers in order to free the lands, and the late Moshe Dayan, who was defense minister at the time, said: We are waiting for a telephone call from the Arabs. He also said: I prefer Sharm al-Shaykh without peace to peace without Sharm al-Shaykh. We responded to the Egyptian president's remarks with ridicule and arrogance. Moshe Dayan's remarks made a deep impression on many people in Israel. A bloody war with Egypt and Syria and thousands of fatalities among IDF soldiers dear to us and among soldiers in the Egyptian and Syrian Armies were needed for Cairo to reach the correct conclusion that peace is preferable to war and for Jerusalem to reach the correct conclusion that peace is preferable to Sharm al-Shaykh.

Members of the Knesset, I wish to note that this government has decided to do everything necessary and possible to prevent wars, blood, and tears. This government has decided to lift the receiver to the Arab states because the telephone is ringing. This government has decided that under certain circumstances, peace is preferable to Sharm al-Shaykh, just as the Likud government under the late Menahem Begin courageously decided. The telephone rang years ago in Cairo, and it is now ringing in Gaza and Jericho, in Amman, Damascus, and in Beirut. And, gentlemen, we are lifting the receiver, and there is somebody at the other end who responds with shalom.

Members of the Knesset, for a generation we knew how to overrun enemy outposts, to capture enemy cities and hit them hard. We were the best at war. Now we are using the same determination in a different war. We are once again overrunning, but this time in order to be the best at peace. We are ready for any negotiations with the Arab states and the Palestinians on the basis of a genuine partnership for peace and security. At the same time, however, we do not fail to see that in a world of wolves, we have no intention of being an innocent lamb. We do not intend for one moment to stop bolstering the IDF, building up our strength, keeping our eyes wide open, preparing. We are prepared for peace. We are also prepared for war, if it is forced on us.

Members of the Knesset, we have grown tired of the expression window of opportunities, but what can we do? That is the correct term to describe these days. In recent years, we have been witnessing contrasting trends in the world. On one hand, there is a spirit of conciliation and peace that has been shaking the entire world—perhaps mainly the Soviet empire, since its collapse. On the other hand, however, there is also an opposite trend. A dark wave of radical Islam is trying to overrun many countries. The radical Islamic terrorist organizations operate in several directions. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad carry out most of the terrorist attacks against Israelis in Israel and in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Hizballah, a branch of that same wave, perpetrates most of the attacks against IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers in Lebanon. International terrorism, which is also part of that wave, harms Israelis, Jews, and others around the entire world. There is no need to remind you of what occurred in Buenos Aires and London this year, in Buenos Aires and in Istanbul in 1992.

The radical Islamic terrorist organizations are trying to harm moderate Arab regimes prepared for peace with Israel. In recent years, Iranian aid to such terrorism, both direct and indirect, has been prominent. Iran's involvement is found in the attacks carried out by the radical Islamic terrorist elements in the Middle East and around the world.

As members of the Jewish people, we respect the beliefs of other religions because, as Jews, we are sensitive to freedom of religious ritual for all religions, but we will fight and struggle against Khomeynism without Khomeyni, which is the main axis characterizing the wave of radical Islamic terrorism.

We welcome the trends for peace and view with concern the dark wave of radical Islam. Never has comprehensive peace been so close to us while, at the same time, the danger of radical Islam hovers over it like a shadow. Many in the Arab states surrounding us share our deep concern regarding radical Islam, and they say and know that almost the only way to dry up the swamp of radical Islam is through economic development and the improvement of the standard of living. Poverty and want are the incubator of that dangerous wave, and only—and I stress—only economic support and the improvement of the conditions in Egypt and Syria, in Jordan and Lebanon, and of the Palestinians will hinder those extremists. Such an improvement, such economic development can be carried out only when peace reins throughout the Middle East.

We consider ourselves partners in this important battle, and we view comprehensive peace as one of the important tools that will help the Arab states help themselves and thereby also help us reach peace.

Members of the Knesset, in the year that has just passed, we began an arrangement with the Palestinians, peace negotiations with Jordan, and the very initial stages of peace negotiations with Syria and Lebanon. The present government adopted the Madrid formula begun by the previous government under Mr. Yitzhaq Shamir; however, when we learned that while the principle is correct, the system is leading us to a deadlock, we chose to change the system and start separate talks. I never supported an international conference. We managed to convert the Madrid Conference into a bilateral conference in the true meaning of the term. This path has been fruitful. In the past year, the government signed the Declaration of Principles [DOP] with the Palestinians, the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, and early empowerment for several areas in the territories. Negotiations on the following stages will commence in the coming days.

We added our signature to the agreement with the Palestinians with a heavy heart. Bitter memories of 100 years of bloody conflicts prevent complete reconciliation. We said we owe it to the coming generations; we said we would try to start a new, historic chapter in relations between the Palestinians and the State of Israel. A year ago, in the wake of the festivals and festivities, the Palestinian leaders faced the tough reality in Gaza and in the refugee camps of Jabalyah and Khan Yunus. Poverty and hunger, the incubator of all radical terrorist activity, were and still are the enemies of the current Palestinian leadership. In our view, their leadership will be tested by the improvement in the economic welfare of the residents there. It is that which, to a large extent, will decide whether the peace with the Palestinians will succeed. Following totally erroneous moves—at least from our point of view—which were made at the outset, following confusion and disorder, we are witnessing these very days the first buds of law and order.

Many countries have agreed to help the Palestinians economically, and we encourage that in every way, because it is also in our interest, in terms of security and otherwise, that Gazans and residents of Jericho be economically well off and live a good life. But we will not hide and will not deny that radical Palestinian terrorism continues to take its toll. Since the DOP was signed in Washington over a year ago, 62 IDF soldiers and civilians were murdered and wounded in Israel and in the territories by terrorists, most of them from Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. I would like to express the government's condolences to the families and wish the wounded a speedy recovery.

Members of the Knesset, we will not tire of stressing that security is our main concern and that peace will not come to this land without security. Therefore, we regard terrorist actions with the deepest gravity. We have not ignored that here and there certain actions are being taken by the Palestinian Authority [PA] to prevent terrorism or to capture its perpetrators, but we do not believe it is enough. From our point of view, there is only one test: the results. So far, these fall far from satisfying us, to put it mildly.

In my meetings—especially my last meeting—with the PLO chairman, I announced in the most firm way to him and his colleagues in the PA that further progress along the path to peace depends greatly on the ability of the PLO chairman and his people to overcome terrorism within the territory under their control. If terrorism continues, it will make it difficult for us to continue the peace process with the Palestinians.

Members of the Knesset, the signing of the DOP with the Palestinians paved the way for the negotiating table with King Husayn I, king of the Hashemite kingdom. During the year, peace negotiations started between Israel and Jordan, and we are in the midst of these negotiations these very days. In recent weeks, Israeli and Jordanian negotiators have sat daily until late into the night in an attempt to find honorable solutions to problems raised by Amman and Jerusalem. The great achievement is already behind us. We came to Washington for an occasion symbolizing a big step forward, the nonbelligerency agreement or, as the Jordanian monarch called it, the end of the state of war. An ever bigger achievement, however, is still before us. In my meeting with them last Thursday in al-'Aqabah, the king and the crown prince made it clear to me that they intend to reach the signing of a full peace treaty between Israel and Jordan's Hashemite kingdom as soon as possible. The king said he plans to create a warm peace between Israel and Jordan. he said to me, and I quote: In our peace, the border between Israel and Jordan will be meaningless. There are still several problems to be resolved in the areas of borders, water, and security. In the coming days, our emissaries will again sit down at the negotiating table with representatives of the Jordanian kingdom in order to secure another peace treaty for the State of Israel. Therefore, I must tell the members of the Knesset with satisfaction, happiness, and pride that as far as I know, the signing of a full peace treaty between Israel and the Kingdom of Jordan may take place soon, even before the end of the Gregorian calendar year.

I know that everything I have said may sound like a dream and may even bring a smile to your faces. Yet this week I read in a newspaper, among the regular reports about cheap holiday deals in Tiberias and advertisements for apartment sales, notices about trips from Israel to Petra, tours of Amman, trips to Jarash. Nobody in Israel even gets excited about this anymore, as though it were an everyday event, a commonplace advertisement on page 3 of a newspaper. Knesset members, more than 27 years ago, when a sharp knife was put to our neck, the IDF set out to war in defense of our lives. That great victory put us on the banks of the Suez Canal, along the Jordan River, and at the top of the Golan Heights, known until then as the Syrian Heights. During the 27 years that have elapsed since the Six-Day War, the Golan Heights have turned from a rocky land to a blooming garden. Families and homes were set up, and children were born on the black basalt rocks. The State of Israel, all Israeli Governments, sent the best people to the Golan. We do not have any better than them, these pioneers, visionaries, and combatants, who engaged in an honorable and admirable enterprise there. It is no coincidence that sympathy for the Golan people crosses party lines and sweeps through crowds. All that is beautiful, all that we dreamed to see in the State of Israel and in its Israeli sons is embodied in Drora and Yehuda from Merom Golan, Sami from Qatzrin, and Dganit from Kfar Haruv, the residents of the Golan. We did not make a mistake when we sent them to the Golan. We did not make a mistake when we encouraged them to build a home, raise children, plant a vineyard, and pick fruits. That was the right thing at the right time and the right place. With all due respect to the Golan settlement—and I do have such respect—it has never been the main point for me. Regardless of what has been said here, the importance of the Golan is in terms of Israel's security, with or without settlements.

Allow me to say a few personal words. Most of my adult life I spent in service in the IDF, and part of that service was as commander of the Northern Command. Every corner, every settlement, every stone in the north is familiar to me. It was during my service in the north that the serious incidents with the Syrians began, and names which have fallen from usage were routine to me and my IDF colleagues: al-Durayjat, al-Julaybinah, al-Tawafiq, Khirbat al-'Aziziyat. I was a witness and a party to the suffering of villages which valiantly and resolutely withstood the firing of shells. An important part of what I have witnessed in my life was the ruins of the children's rooms in Gadot, the burning barns of Tel Qazir, and the burning fields of Hulata, Gonen, and Lahavot Habashan. We did not climb the Golan Heights and occupy it during the Six-Day War so that these scenes will return, and no power in the world will move us even a single centimeter on the Golan if no full and true peace—a peace with perfect security arrangements and, yes, a peace of the brave—is established between Israel and Syria. Only a true peace will make us ready for changes. Members of the Knesset, for 27 years we held our political and security views and did not change them because the world and the Arab states had not changed, but one would have to be an ostrich not to notice that the world, including some of the Arab states, has changed in recent years. Members of the Knesset, as long as Syria did not recognized Israel's right to live in peace, there was no room for any dialogue with it. As long as Damascus rejected our outstretched arm, we strengthened our military and civilian hold on the Golan, several dozen kilometers from Damascus.

Syria made the first step toward the possibility of peace during the Likud government's term, when it agreed to participate in the Madrid Conference. We welcomed that and continued the arduous journey toward peace. The situation has changed. In recent weeks, we have observed several signs pointing to Syria's willingness to partake in the peace journey. The road is still long. There is still a great deal of work ahead, and peace with Syria is still far away, but we have no intention of ignoring these signs. We will not return to those days when the motto was that we had nobody to talk to; we will not return to those days of saying that we are waiting for a telephone call and that the whole world is against us. We will not return to those days, ladies and gentlemen. We are marching ahead. The following is my statement to the Golan people today: I accompanied you for a whole generation, during both your finest hours and your moments of pain; I witnessed your prosperity and was a loyal party to your path. I also always told you my views honestly and faithfully. My opinion, then and today, is that many security risks are involved in any territorial concession to Syria. We are placing a great deal on the scales, both peace and security, but we will not sign any peace agreement with Damascus if we are not convinced that security—the maximum achievable security—is guaranteed us.

I appeal to you, Drora and Yehuda from Merom Golan; to you, Amitay and Roni from Mevo Hama; to you, Sami from Qatzrin and Ori from Ortal; to the Golan people in general and tell you that my supreme duty as prime minister, our duty as a government vis-a-vis the Israeli people, is to choose every option for peace. For years we looked for any crack, for years we desired and pursued peace, and now, for the first time since the establishment of the State of Israel, there is a chance for peace with Syria. Peace with Syria is, to a large extent, the key to peace in general. I would like to ask you, my friends on the Golan: What should we do? Should we not try to make an effort to reach peace? Should we reject outright the possibility of putting an end to all wars? It is not only I who owes an answer to this to all Israeli citizens, including those on the Golan, but you on the Golan owe an answer, too. Remember—and after all, you know this—there is not only an apple orchard on the Golan but also a valley of tears, and perhaps your son, Drora, the son of whom you spoke in an emotional television appearance, who, as you said, might fight for the Golan Heights again, perhaps your son and thousands of others in Israel will never need to fight. Can we pass this up? I, we in the government, decided to give a chance that did not exist before to peace with Syria. If going for peace is a change in position, then I have changed my position. Nonetheless, and let me repeat, we will not abandon the security of the State of Israel, God forbid. We will add peace to it. Members of the Knesset, what is the situation in the negotiations with the Syrians today? Contrary to the good relationship we maintain with the Palestinians and the Jordanians, we do not have a good dialogue with the Syrians. It is our friends, the Americans, who maintain the contacts between Jerusalem and Damascus with dedication, loyalty, and perseverance. This is an opportunity to thank the United States, the U.S. President, the secretary of state, and the peace team for their effort and their outstretched arm.

Members of the Knesset, our intention is to reach the signing of a full peace treaty with Syria. In order to do so, we have to reach agreement with Syria on four components simultaneously, as a package deal—a case of all or nothing. The first component: What will the peace border laid out in the peace treaty be? As of today, there is no agreement between us and the Syrians on the location of this border. The second component is the timetable for the implementation of the elements of the peace treaty—namely, the duration of this timetable, which will involve the implementation of the withdrawal to the peace border, the stages of the withdrawal, the implementation of full normalization, and the establishment of security arrangements. The third component involves testing full normalization after the initial stage, which will involve a very limited withdrawal that will not necessitate the uprooting of settlements on the Golan. The intention is to test full normalization over a period of three years, in which we will hold on to most of the Golan. The word normalization means everything; it is life itself. This is the peace of which we dreamed, peace as it is practiced daily: an Israeli Embassy in Damascus, a Syrian Embassy in Israel, an Egged bus traveling to Aleppo, Israeli tourists in Hims, Israeli ships at Tartus, El Al planes landing, and commercial and cultural ties—everything, and in both directions. Last but not least, the fourth component—the most important one in any peace treaty with Syria—is security, the security arrangements. This dry term also means everything: a mutual reduction of regular forces, demilitarizing territories and not on a symmetrical geographic basis, and deploying multinational forces in the format invented by the Likud, as is the case in the Sinai. Approximately 1,000 U.S. soldiers have been present in the Sinai for 15 and ½ years. Their task there is one of supervision, and they were entrusted with this mission by an Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. decision and not by a UN resolution. initially, there were more than 1,000, whereas today there are 980 U.S. soldiers in the Sinai supervising the military annex of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. We will not demand anything else of the Americans when we secure a peace treaty with Syria on the Golan—the same thing, the very same thing. [heckling from Likud members]

Do not play games with the U.S. Congress. It was you, the Likud, who invented the idea of the U.S. Army presence to uphold the peace treaty between Israel and an Arab state. I am not deceiving anybody. Go and check. How many Americans are there in the Sinai today? Was I the one who said they would prevent a war? [heckling] You know who lied to Congress and who thought up the American military presence in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its resolution.

We will have a multinational force deployed on the Golan like that which exists in the Sinai today, and it will include American troops, also similar to those we now have in the Sinai, as well as early warning stations, periodic checks, etc. I have reiterated that only security arrangements that satisfy us will permit us to take the risks involved in a Golan withdrawal.

Members of the Knesset, I must tell you once again that at this stage, there is a dispute between Israel and Syria regarding all four components. To my regret, the gaps are still wide and deep. I am aware of the complaints against us. There are those who say: That is not what you told us prior to the elections. They say they did not think this is what would happen. The Labor platform in the elections to the current Knesset said specifically that we want a territorial compromise for peace, and this includes Syria. A withdrawal on the Golan Heights, therefore, is part of the government's declared policy presented to the electorate prior to the elections to the current Knesset. Nevertheless, in the case of any significant withdrawal, we are determined to bring the issue to a resolution through a national referendum. What is more democratic than that? What is fairer than a national referendum? [heckling]

I reiterate my promise that if we have to pay for a peace treaty approved by the government with a significant withdrawal, we will present it in detail to every citizen of Israel and ask: Do you support this peace? We will not sign a peace treaty with Syria before asking for the nation's opinion in a national referendum.

Members of the Knesset, I do not like the Massada and Gamla examples, because they are symbols of failure. It is for this reason that, when referring to them, we say: Never again.

Prior to the comprehensive peace and while still in an atmosphere of discussions and agreements, we are witnessing a new wind blowing throughout the entire world in its relations with the State of Israel. The claim that the whole world is against us has blown away on the winds of peace. The world is not against us; the world is with us, and we are already reaping the fruits of peace. Dozens of distinguished visitors come here and seek our friendship. Yesterday we hosted the Lithuanian prime minister, today the Chilean defense minister, tomorrow we will host a Chinese deputy prime minister for the first time. In the coming weeks, 30 high-level visitors will arrive, and that is only the beginning. The gates of hostile countries have been opened wide. Israelis are now in Oman and Qatar, Amman and Tunisia. Citizens of hostile Arab states are coming to us and forging initial economic, trade, and cultural links, and that is only the beginning. Only recently were we told about the opening of an interests office in Morocco, and this week we have more good news: the opening of an interests office in Tunisia. Thanks to the efforts of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the people in his ministry, we will see more and more such offices shortly.

The Gulf states, headed by Saudi Arabia, have announced that in practice, the secondary and tertiary Arab boycott of companies that traded with Israel, which has gone on for dozens of years, has ended. Therefore, a new track, a new world of economic and trade tries has been forged for the State of Israel. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the President of the United States and the secretary of state for their decisive contribution to this important political achievement.

Peace does not blind us. We are keeping our eyes wide open and are closely scrutinizing what is happening around us. We know that together with the readiness for peace, the Arab armies, including the Syrian Army, bolster their might. We have not for one moment stopped training and upgrading the IDF's capability in all fields.

U.S. aid did not stop coming for one moment. This year was characterized by the continuation of regular civilian aid as well as defense aid to the tune of $1.8 billion—of which $500 million are, in fact, used in defense industries and research institutes. Within the framework of U.S. aid, huge contracts were signed this year. Over 20 F-15I's costing over $2 billion were procured. Artillery rocket launchers and the first Saar-5 vessel arrived, and two others are still being completed.

The U.S. Administration under President Bill Clinton understood that Israel must be militarily strengthened in order to guarantee peace, just as we are convinced that this is the case. He put at our disposal 24 Apache assault helicopters, 10 Black Hawk helicopters, 50 F-16's, antitank missiles, sea-to-sea missiles, air- to-surface bombs. [Likud heckling claiming that this military aid was received by the Likud government during the Gulf war] Everything I have just mentioned is new, after having been decided between Clinton and myself. Everything I mentioned is Clinton's contribution in the wake of a dialogue with me. There is not a single item from before 1993. You are not speaking the truth. I did not talk about what was received beforehand. I tell you that 24 Apaches and 10 Blackhawks were given to me by Clinton. You are not aware of the details. Check with those who know.

Members of the Knesset, this is the political situation, with its lights and shadows, and there are many lights, many more than there are shadows.

We continue our journey toward peace so that in the month of Jewish holidays next year, we will be able to face you as the representatives of the people of Israel and say to the entire people of Israel: We brought peace unto you.

Likud Chairman Netanyahu Addresses Knesset

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[Statement by Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu at the opening of the winter session of the Knesset in Jerusalem—live, with interruptions by heckling from the floor]

[FBIS Translated Text] Honorable President, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Knesset. At the opening of this Knesset winter session, I would like to wish the people of Israel a happy new year. Mr. Prime Minister, I am forced to extend my planned speech and add a demand. I seriously criticize the fact that your government has distanced itself from Zionist guidelines, from our right to this land, from the principle that only we and no foreigners will defend us. Yesterday, however, I heard yet another example of this from a minister of your cabinet who spoke of a principle of selection, a selection in aliyah. [amid loud heckling, Prime Minister Rabin demands that Netanyahu revoke his latest remarks and leaves the plenum hall]

I look at my watch, and it looks like a race with the clock. With every debate we begin, the prime minister is gradually cutting short the time of his sitting here and listening to the opposition's legitimate and necessary criticism. If I am not mistaken, he has just set a new record. The last time I believe he stayed over a minute. Today, he came in under 30 seconds. I suggest that the prime minister stop the race and sit in this hall as we do, as I do when I listen to the coalition's criticism. It is tolerable, and harsher things than this should be endured. The prime minister said that no suggestion of selection was made, but it was. A minister of the current Israeli Government suggested that a selection of the current immigration from the CIS be made. One time, they suggested such a selection with the aliyah from North Africa, from Kurdistan. Selections were suggested. And must I tell the prime minister that expressing a reservation with such remarks is not enough. The prime minister should present Minister Namir with a simple choice: Either she absolutely renounces her suggestions [words indistinct], or he fires her. If he does not do this, he should simply announce that this government has adopted norms of selections that stand in contradiction to the spirit of Zionism. [following President 'Ezer Weizman's request, the Knesset speaker calls on the prime minister to return to the hall "to end this incident," and Rabin returns]

I would like to congratulate the president of the state for his welcome intervention here. I would also like to welcome the agreement on opening interest offices between Israel and Tunisia, just as we welcomed a similar move with Morocco, and just as we, the Likud and the entire opposition, support forming official relations with Jordan. Any progress toward true peace with the Arab world is positive. The Likud wants true peace, has brought true peace, and will bring true peace. The openness by certain parts of the Arab world toward normalization of relations and appeasement with us, which we have been witnessing, is the result of a prolonged process in which the Arab world learned to live with a fact established in the Six-Day War—namely that in its current borders there is no option of eliminating the State of Israel. This process started in 1967, continued with the collapse of the USSR—the supporter of the largest Arab armies—and continued with the defeat of Iraq and later with the Madrid conference. And yet, it would certainly be true to say that, while the world is not entirely against us and part of the Arab world is actually moving toward us, it is doing this because it recognizes our might. A weak Israel, a dwarfed Israel, will not and could not bring about such a process of appeasement. The relevant question, therefore, is how to continue this positive process without reversing it by returning us to borders that would deprive us of our ability to ward off the major threats that still surround us.

With all due respect, Mr. Prime Minister, our problem is not the Tunisian threat or the Armed Forces of Bahrain and Kuwait. The immediate, tangible threat to us is the Syrian Army, which is constantly arming itself and which is deployed only several kilometers from northern Israel. Ever since the Six-Day War, this vast Syrian Army has been trapped in a bottleneck, with the cork at its end being the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops on the Golan Heights. Now, Mr. Prime Minister, you are about to uncork it. You intend to hand over the entire Golan Heights to Syria. Naturally I heard your speech. It was long-winded and included a major hint: the remark that they used to say that hanging on to Sharm al-Shaykh without peace is better than having peace without Sharm al-Shaykh. Why did you say that? You said this because you are trying, on the one hand, to prepare public opinion for a total withdrawal—which was the very objective of your speech—while, on the other hand—and your speech included this as well—you attempted to blur this move in order to cover up your systematic abandonment of almost all of your previously made promises.

Mr. Prime Minister, you are trying to hide this in order to conceal your systematic denying of most of the promises you have made. I do not wish to further embarrass you, but you made all kinds of promises to the public, and I quote: There are no, nor will there be any negotiations with the PLO. We will not recognize the PLO, if it does not amend the Palestinian Covenant. PLO men are not involved in terrorist acts. There is no letter, and there never was a letter to 'Arafat regarding Jerusalem. If it becomes apparent that there is a PLO-Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] agreement, it would put the entire negotiating process in question. And how can I avoid mentioning this one: The stock exchange will not be taxed for as long as I am prime minister. Furthermore, I cannot avoid quoting this remark from your speech just now: If terror continues, we will find it hard to continue the negotiations with the Palestinians. You are brazenly breaking all of those promises.

Now you are facing a commitment of yours that is no less serious and no less explicit, perhaps the gravest and most explicit. You said: Even in time of peace, we will not get off the Golan Heights. You made this remark shortly before the elections, and, incidentally, you reiterated it after the elections as well. You said that we will not get off the Golan; then you said: only a few inches. This in turn became kilometers. Then you spoke of withdrawal on the Golan, not from the Golan. And what do you say today? You did not say this explicitly, but everyone here knows: You are working on a withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights down to the Sea of Galilee. True, the foreign minister said—quite candidly, I must add—that there is a debate about al-Hammah, which, as you are well aware, is in the al-Yarmuk Valley, beneath the Golan. Also, there is a debate on whether the final border would be right on the Sea of Galilee waterfront or several meters east of it. There is the question of whether the entire Golan should be handed over in one, two, or three years. Fine, there are debates. Yet, there is no debate over the intention to hand it over. You and your colleagues are trying to hide handing over the entire Golan under the term territorial compromise. Yet, everyone knows that as far as you are concerned there is no territorial compromise on the Golan. You have destroyed the chance of having al-Asad drop his claims to the Golan with your government's policy of making vast concessions. Hence, the real choice today is between the current border and the Sea of Galilee shoreline.

Incidentally, speaking in some other forum, not here, you, Mr. Prime Minister, admitted as much. You did not do this openly. You had a slip, one of your many famous slips of the tongue. Speaking before the Labor Bureau—and I am quoting from HA'ARETZ—you said: We did not make a commitment on a full withdrawal from the Golan, at least not to Syria. Fine. I have never said that you or any of your men ever said as much directly to al-Asad. I did say—and you indirectly confirmed this—that you have delivered this message to al-Asad through the Americans. This reminds me of another denial you made: When Knesset Members Meridor and Begin asked you whether a letter was written to 'Arafat regarding Jerusalem, you sent Minister Shahal to tell the Knesset that there is no letter to 'Arafat regarding Jerusalem. Later you explained: The letter was not addressed to 'Arafat, it was written to Jorgen Holst. I repeat: You have delivered an offer to al-Asad regarding a full withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights. You know this is the truth, Mr. Prime Minister. Every one of the members of this house, and all those outside this building know this is the truth. Even your best friends know this is the truth. Former Generals Hofi, 'Amos Horev, and Tzvi Zamir—all of whom are no small fish; they all have a glorious part in Israel's security, former heads of the Mosad and members of Labor—spoke out openly and for the record, asking: Whatever happened to Yitzhaq Rabin? They know you are about to get off the Golan Heights. I, therefore, ask you: Please, do not whitewash it. Do not tell us stories.

You also have this method of justifying this. You keep telling us that, well, al-Asad keeps agreements. Let me tell you: There is almost not a single agreement that al-Asad has made that he has not violated. He violated the agreements he made with Turkey to eliminate the Kurdish underground bases inside Syrian territory. He violated the agreements he made with Lebanon in which he promised to pull the Syrian Army out of Lebanon. He also violated the agreements he made with us in 1976, with American mediation, to reduce Syrian military activity and presence in Lebanon, to reduce the number of flights and surface-to-air missiles. If you are looking for an authority on his violations, I will refer you to a person you must know. Perhaps you have forgotten, but his name is Itamar Rabinovich. I am speaking about Mr. Rabinovich before he put on the diplomat's robe. Rabinovich defined al-Asad's deeds in Lebanon—and I quote—as a gross violation of the 1976 agreements.

Mr. Prime Minister, I ask you again not to be offended by this, but it is a matter of evaluating the facts. If you believe that al-Asad honors agreements, I can tell you that al-Asad keeps agreements to about the same degree that you keep promises. You are entitled to your own opinions, but there is this one agreement that al-Asad has not violated. It is the Golan disengagement agreement from 1975, and it was not violated precisely because the IDF troops are there, on the outskirts of Damascus. He has no choice but to keep this agreement. This, the only agreement—an exception—that al-Asad keeps, and he keeps it because our situation has changed greatly since the Six-Day War. Incidentally, at first, al-Asad and Syria failed to understand this. The fact is that in the Yom Kippur War in 1973 he tried to attack us on the Golan. Very soon, within three weeks, he found that we were at the gates of Damascus. With us on the Golan, Syria has no option for an attack, not a successful one. They have the option to be defeated. This is why in the following war, the war of Lebanon, he did not fire a single shot on the Golan. We destroyed his divisions and 200 of his planes, and he did not fire one shot on the Golan because he has no option for war on the Golan as long as we are there.

If you do not understand this basic difference, Mr. Prime Minister, let me tell you: Almost everyone understands this. The state of peace between us and Syria was determined by our force of deterrence. Anyone failing to distinguish between these two types of peace—peace that leans on deterring a dictatorship, especially an armed dictatorship, such as Syria, and peace with democracies—does not understand the main lesson. A peace agreement had existed between two dictatorships, Iran and Iraq. They had embassies and even a bus line from Basrah to Tehran. They exchanged libraries, science, culture, everything. Yet, the day they decided to violate this state of peace and the Iraqi Army decided that the Iranian Army had collapsed after the shah fell, all of those things did not help. The one thing keeping us and Syria at peace is our force of deterrence on the Golan Heights.

I said that everyone understands this—well, almost everyone. As the old song goes, the reason that there is peace, Mr. Prime Minister, is that there are guns on the mountain, but they threaten Damascus. This makes a world of difference. Now, Mr. Prime Minister, you are about to remove the guns from the mountain. You will tell us that there is an alternative to guns. To which I will say that no observers on Mount Hermon will stop the Syrian Army when it one day decides to violate the peace. No multinational force of 1,000 or 2,000 Americans, Tibetans, or others will stop charging Syrian divisions. There is no alternative to a defensive military force on the Golan, not technology, aid, pilotless drones, nor satellites. This was also stated by your chief of staff and others, and not two years ago—which is when you said this—but two weeks ago.

For 27 years, you and your friends have been swearing that when we reach negotiations with Syria, you will not get off the Golan Heights. Now that this has materialized, you say that the situation has changed and that now we are negotiating with Syria. What new situation are you talking about? It is exactly the situation you have been talking about all those years. You said: It is inconceivable that we get off the Golan Heights, not even in times of peace. Only recently, you said: Anyone who gets off the Golan Heights would be jeopardizing Israel's security. You said: I have and I will say again that we will not get off the Golan even at a time of peace. And now you say: For 27 years we did not understand what peace with Syria means; we were being stupid; now we understand. And the man on the street asks: Perhaps it is the other way around? Perhaps you are being stupid now? One thing is certain: That man is not stupid. There is a limit to how much you can fool the people. Because the people and the Knesset are not with you, you are trying to outsmart us. Since you know that the people are not with you—and I may say that the Knesset is not with you as well, even at this very minute—you are trying to outsmart us. You are trying to fix the deal in secret, behind the people's back, present it with a done thing, and then you will ask it whether we should do what has already been done. That is, you will first reach a full withdrawal agreement with Syria, with or without the initialing stage of which Minister Sarid spoke, and then you will ask the nation. You will put the piece of meat inside the lion's den, and then you will ask the public to decide whether it now wants to salvage the prey from the teeth of the lion—this asad [Arabic for lion]. You, Mr. Prime Minister will say: I am fine. The lion has not yet eaten the prey, but you should know that it would be very angry if you tried to pull the piece of meat from its teeth, and who can tell what an angry lion would do. Then, you will attempt to garner the support of the entire Arab world and the Western world, as you have started doing, at which point you will explain that, once you have pledged in negotiations to give the Golan back to al-Asad, a decision by the people against returning the Golan would mean war.

This is your strategy in a nutshell, and it is not a complex one. First you act and then you intimidate the people into approving your deeds. I am telling you: You promised to ask the people, so ask them now. This is the time to pose the question, this is the time to make a decision. The fair, correct, and just thing to do is to call an election now. This is our demand. After all, you were elected on the basis of your promise not to pull out of the Golan. So, if you want to renege on your promise—and you do—the proper thing to do is to seek the people's approval in new elections whose outcome we will honor.

My friends and I know that, unfortunately, you have a parliamentary majority that can prevent elections. You said you would conduct a referendum. All right, do that, hold a referendum now. This is not our first choice and it is not what we want, but a decision must be made before the deed is done and not after. It should be a fair referendum, as is customary in democratic countries. You are constantly lashing out against democracy. By the way, you have some good partners, such as Knesset Member [MK] Dedi Zucker who revealed himself to be a great democrat when he said he would bury parliamentary initiatives. [heckling] Anything that conflicts with your withdrawal line, including motions from the coalition benches, you call antidemocratic. You fiercely oppose a special majority. You say you will pass the fateful decision of ceding sovereignty over areas of our motherland with a simple majority. It is hard, Mr. Prime Minister, to find a precedent of any other democratic leader making such a proposal.

I know some people like to compare you to De Gaulle. Let me tell you something about De Gaulle. He repeatedly demanded that an absolute majority of the French people, at least 75 percent, should decide in a referendum about pulling out of Algeria. I would like to stress that we are talking about Algeria, a land on the other side of the sea, a faraway French colony that was not part of the French motherland and did not pound Marseilles with missiles. In order to pull the French out of Algeria—not out of Marseilles—De Gaulle repeatedly insisted on getting the support of a sweeping majority of the French people. You, on the other hand, want to pull the Israelis out of the Golan. You would not be getting out of some colony on the other side of the sea. This particular piece of land is here, above the Galilee; it is a place from which Israelis living in the north were attacked time and again by the Syrians. It is not a foreign piece of land, Mr. Prime Minister. Is Gamla Syrian? Is Qatzrin Syrian? Is the village there dating back to Talmudic times Syrian? Is ancient Qatzrin or contemporary Qatzrin Syrian? Is the Mishnah which was written there Syrian? Is the new chapter of settlement now being written there Syrian? Unfortunately, Mr. Rabin, you are not De Gaulle. You are the exact opposite of De Gaulle on this issue. De Gaulle sought a referendum one and a half years before the Evian agreements—a full one and a half years. You, in contrast, are seeking to hold a referendum on the eve of the elections, on the eve of an agreement, to be more precise. De Gaulle sought an overwhelming majority of the French nation and was not prepared to suffice with less than that, while you are seeking a simple majority. In short, De Gaulle sought the decision of the people while you are trying to avoid a decision of the people.

Various suggestions have been floated—a majority of 75 percent, as demanded by De Gaulle, and a majority of 65 percent—but I do not want to go into that. What I propose is elections. But, if we are at all to contemplate a referendum I think MK Yoram Lass's proposal is worth examining. He proposes that a referendum be approved by absolute majority of the people, at least 50 percent of all eligible voters. This is the minimum requirement accepted in most democracies. Anywhere in the world, when you talk about ceding sovereignty, this is the minimum requirement accepted by everybody. Incidentally, this is the minimum accepted requirement even when such fateful issues as sovereignty are not at stake.

Referendums in Austria require 50 percent of all eligible voters, and the same applies to Ireland, Italy, Russia, Spain, and other countries.

In short, Mr. Prime Minister, there is hardly a precedent anywhere to what you propose to do—to decide before the people do through all sorts of stratagems that will prevent a decision of a majority of the people—or at least I have not yet found such a precedent in any other democracy.

Having said that, the most serious thing you are doing is not that you are violating your promise to the people, or that you are making a deal with al-Asad behind their backs—which is what you are doing—or that you are trying to avoid bringing it to the people for their decision. The most serious thing you are doing is that you are opening the gate before the next war, seeing that he who pulls out of the Golan Heights in times of peace is sooner or later inviting the violation of peace.

Alluding to a government which you probably know, Winston Churchill once said that it had to choose between disgrace and war, and that it chose disgrace and got war in the bargain. Mr. Prime Minister, I believe the Israeli people will not allow you to make such a lamentable choice.

Peres' 29 Sep Speech to UN General Assembly

TA0310132194 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 1237 GMT 3 Oct 94

[Speech by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the UN General Assembly session on 29 September; issued by the Foreign Ministry spokesman on 3 October]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mister President, I would like to congratulate you, on your election to the Presidency of the General Assembly. We are pleased that the representative of Cote d'Ivoire, a nation for which Israel has high regard, was elected to this distinguished post. I would like to express to the Secretary-General our deepest appreciation for his contribution to world peace in general, and the Middle East in particular.

A year ago, I offered a concept for a new Middle East. Many applauded, more remained skeptical. What seemed then lofty, is today a reality. I feel I can submit today an invitation to a further journey in a new Middle East.

Last year was a year of remarkable events. The Palestinian people, as a result of our agreement, gained authority in Gaza and Jericho; Jordan and Israel, in the Washington Declaration, agreed to end the state of war and move towards an agreement of full peace; voices of promise are exchanged between Damascus and Jerusalem; Multilateral meetings produced a network of regional cooperation; Morocco and Israel established formal relations, and an agenda for a new Middle East will emerge from an unprecedented economic conference in Casablanca next month.

The desire for peace is rooted in the millennia of Jewish existence. Generations prayed for it. A young generation in Israel is today engaged in it. The search for peace is shared by young people all over the Middle East, Arabs and Israelis alike. We have to meet their hope.

I address this Assembly, for the first time, not as a party to a controversy, but as a representative of a country that has shown a capacity to solve conflicts that seemed insoluble.

The UN should play a role facing the changing times. It can define new destinies and adopt new means.

As the United Nations celebrates its 50th anniversary, it may adopt models for new endeavors, by mobilizing builders to construct peace, not just by deploying troops to keep it. Economic structures will offer more than military deployment.

Gaza, as an example, has a new authority. It needs a new economy. The United Nations can provide an answer. The 7,000 years of Gaza are mainly a history of suffering. Its density today is among the highest in the world.

The role of the United Nations in Gaza, started by stationing troops that were recalled, unfortunately, on the eve of the Six-Day War. Then, UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] supplied food, health and education to the refugees. The UNDP [UN Development Program] contributed to the construction of an infrastructure in the Gaza Strip.

The United Nations can help Gaza today depart from want. It can introduce there, the necessary economic and proper social institutions. An enlarged allocation for Gaza, with the existing UN administration, will produce immediate results and may make Gaza a new model of the United Nations' endeavors.

The world is moving from military might to social priorities. It is time to turn from political confrontation to economic cooperation. In the Middle East, economic growth can compensate for political compromises.

We no longer live in a closed world. The intensive flow of information, opened the eyes of the people. No longer can tyranny blind their perceptions. Iron curtains cannot arrest anymore the spread of the true story. Knowledge finally overcame propaganda.

This current is profound and permanent. The sources of strength and wealth are today universal rather than national, intellectual rather than material.

The size of territory, the number of people, the wealth of raw materials, no longer decide the fate of a nation. The scope of education, the niveau of science, the applied technology, the up-to-date information, make all the difference.

Intellectual sources are not partitioned by traditional divides. Science has no territorial limits. Technology has no national flags. Information can travel without visas. Armies cannot conquer wisdom, borders cannot protect knowledge. The talent of creation is replacing the strategies of destruction. Computers, not rifles, mark the difference. The hunting season in history is disappearing.

It does not mean an end to agonies. Starvation, maladies, terrorism, desertification, nuclear weapons, ecological damage, dangerous drugs, overflow boundaries of land and reason.

Violence employs new tactics, it has not disappeared. Confrontations in the future may not be wars of conquest, but bloodshed of protest. The strong know that they will not be strengthened by dominating the poor, or by owning the deserts. The poor cannot, and will not, comply with their conditions, tolerated by the indifference of the well off.

Existing institutions were initiated in different times. They are based on memories. Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense were structured to confront enemies. Now we face dangers more than enemies, yet without our being organized to handle them. Diplomacy and strategy should be mobilized to face the undefined dangers. Maladies will not be overcome by the traditional diplomatic demarches. Starvation cannot be eliminated by guns. Deserts will not bloom by air raids. Remedies will not arrive automatically. They should be invented and introduced.

Israel is on the side of this current. We are committed to end the conflicts. We are determined to uproot their causes. We do not intend to stop this momentum or allow its interruption.

For the last five decades, the mere existence of Israel served as a temptation to try and destroy her. For half a century, we had to give security top priority. To this very day, we shed tears on the tombs of our children, who paid with their youthful lives to overcome menace. When wars became futile, suspicion succeeded fighting. The allegation was that Israel is trying to expand territorially, and is unwilling to compromise geographically. But reality ended this allegation.

Egypt, first to negotiate peace, found an Israel willing to exchange land for peace. The Palestinians, next in line, gained jurisdiction over territory they never controlled before. With Jordan, we agreed to delineate a permanent border without one side encroaching on the land of the other. Syria was told at the outset of negotiations that the nature of peace will affect the depth of withdrawal. Lebanon was told that Israel has no demands on her territory and no intention to compromise her integrity.

Negotiations have not been easy. With the Palestinians, we negotiated on uncharted grounds. Never had they experienced self-rule. Today they possess a territorial address, an administrative authority. For the first time in their history, their children's education is solely Palestinian.

Israel will hand over, in coming days, additional responsibilities to the hands of the Palestinian Authority. The Declaration of Principles will be fully implemented in spirit and letter. We shall fully support a Palestinian readiness to hold democratic elections.

Israel, as well as the Palestinians, may discover that the Palestinian democracy and Israeli security are complementary. We have demonstrated that we are true to our moral choice not to govern the destiny of another people.

We shall continue to negotiate with Syria. We are negotiating out of conviction, not weakness, and we hope to conclude the negotiations with a settlement that will respect the interests of both sides, without harming Syria's dignity, or compromising Israel's security.

Syria insists on a narrow path for the negotiations, postponing meetings of the leaders, thus slowing the pace of negotiations. Israel is ready to accelerate it. We address the Syrians by saying: Let us talk face to face. Let's negotiate, as proclaimed in Damascus, with courage to attain peace with honor. Eroding suspicion, introducing creativity and allowing flexibility, we can transform a promising climate into a solid terrain. Syria declared its strategy for peace. We appreciate it.

Military threats and territorial positions should be transformed by security arrangements, diplomatic rapport, full peace, and economic endeavors. It will erode the motivation of conflict. Without peaceful relations, balances of power are meaningless. The range of understanding can serve as the only answer to the danger of ballistic missiles.

President Clinton, Secretary Christopher are relentlessly pushing for peace. European, Russian and many other leaders, are genuinely supportive. Important Middle Eastern leaders are actively engaged in the same direction. Still, much depends on direct negotiations. Yesterday's enemies, tomorrow's partners, should become today's interlocutors.

A peace treaty between Israel and Syria may produce an historic result greater than just an agreement between two countries. It may well become the crowning of a comprehensive peace. It may become an opportunity for the leaders of the region—kings, presidents, prime ministers, supported by the prominent leaders of our time, to gather and announce the end of the conflict, to proclaim full peace in the totality of the region.

Peace can hardly emerge from stinginess. By definition, it calls for generosity. Peace is more than a ceremony. It requires ongoing maintenance, it awaits a passionate cultivation of new relations. We hope that our neighbors from Saudi Arabia to Lebanon, from Djibouti to Algeria, will become constructive partners. Dark clouds are still hanging over the horizon—shadows of missed opportunities.

We have to build a coalition to prevent subversive turbulence from undermining legitimate governments, from harassing the stability needed for the inflow of investment. All countries of the Middle East face a choice—to remain politically divided and economically stagnant, or to become economically advanced and politically just.

A high standard of living for all the people is the best promise for the stability in our midst. Israel is willing to participate in achieving it. There are skeptics, who do not believe that the Middle East is ripe for a Common Market, similar to the European one. They forget that Europe did not do it in one leap. It started with a community of coal and steel. We can start with a community of water and tourism.

Nor do they believe the Middle East is ready for a Free Trade Zone like the one in North America. Yet NAFTA, in a short while, emerged as a success, linking geographic proximity with economic growth.

They claim that generations are needed to cement a new market. The skeptics can see that in ten short years, Asian countries attained unpredicted prosperity. They achieved it by adopting market economy.

The profile of market economy is clear. It is made of comprehensive education, open borders, free movement, science-based industries, competitive trade. Market economy is a fabric woven from political silk and durable threads of welfare. The time is ripe for its rendezvous with the Middle East.

At the end of October, under the Presidency of King Hassan the Second, we shall take the first step to implement a regional design. We shall try to establish instruments for development—a regional bank, channels for private investment, a framework for regional planning.

The wealth of the Middle East should be convinced to remain at home. Over the last decade, it has invested the better part of its fortune abroad. Homebound wealth will attract foreign investment as well.

We should cut the enormous expense, 70 billion dollars annually, of the arms race. The saving can be directed to development. Arms race can be reduced only by regional consent. No single country will do it alone.

To transform the region and make it stable and attractive, we need the emergence of the region as a whole, committed to a new future. Nature, not only politics, calls for it.

The waters, the winds, the environment, call for regional responsibility and cooperation: desalinization plants, energy stations, highways, railways, runways, piers, telecommunication networks, high-tech industries, tourism infrastructure, banking systems, computer terminals and ecological considerations. A landscape that will meet the future—a state of prosperity is a regional challenge.

The Middle East was the cradle of civilization, and has a capacity to contribute. It experienced the golden ages economically and culturally. It should be our collective ambition to make it happen again, and make it happen soon. Shortages can be bridged today rapidly. Computers can carry children not only from grade to grade, but from age to age. The software of knowledge will better replace the hardware of weapons.

Mister President, I have served my country since its birth. I learned that complex problems call for unconventional solutions. I feel that over the last year, we won a license to build a new Middle East. To make it part of the globe in its new age, free of wars, free of enemies, free of terrorism. A Middle East which will be nuclear-free, missile-free, hunger-free, discrimination-free, tyranny-free. A constituency of peace, a domain of freedom, a land of prosperity.

There is a morning awaiting us after a long night, calling to direct our energies and aim our prayers for that great opportunity.

Thank you, Mister President.

Court Rejects Injunction; Police To Leave for Haiti

TA0410142194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The panel of five High Court justices unanimously rejected the appeal against dispatching Israeli policemen to Haiti. The justices will publish the arguments for their decision at a later date. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the police team will apparently leave tomorrow.

Rabin, PRC Vice Premier Discuss Economic Ties

TA0410112394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister, the economic ministers, and the Defense Ministry's director general met today with the Chinese vice premier. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that areas of economic cooperation, including military industries, were discussed. Other issues raised in the meeting were a project to build a phosphates plant in China and joint telecommunications ventures.

Warning on Flights Over Iranian Territory Issued

NC0310131894 Paris AFP in English 1154 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tel Aviv, Oct 3 (AFP)—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's anti-terrorist adviser issued a warning to Israelis on Monday [3 October] not to take flights over Iranian territory.

"Israeli tourists must ensure they use airlines which do not cross through the airspace of hostile countries, particularly Iran," General Igal Pressler said in a statement.

He has asked Israeli travel agents to draw up itineraries to avoid Iran on trips to Asia.

Israel considers Tehran one of its most dangerous foes and has regularly accused the Iranian government of being behind anti- Israeli attacks across the world.

West Urged to Maintain Sanctions Against Iraq

MS0410100694 London THE TIMES in English 4 Oct 94 p 12

[Report by Michael Evans and Michael Theodoulou: "Plutonium Traffic Heightens Israeli Fears Over Saddam"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia—Israel is stepping up pressure on Western governments to maintain tough sanctions against Iraq, as evidence from intelligence services reveals that Baghdad may be behind recent cases of plutonium smuggling out of Russia.

The pressure grew as a senior United Nations envoy flew to Baghdad for talks last night after threats from Iraq that it would no longer cooperate with nuclear weapons inspectors unless the crippling trade sanctions were eased this month. Iraqi officials also issued a warning of an impending crisis with the United States unless it softened its stand on the four-year-old trade embargo.

After the foiling of several smuggling attempts this year by German intelligence agents running "sting" operations, it is known that Iraqi officials met Russian businessmen and a former senior employee of a Russian nuclear weapons establishment to assess the damage and find alternative routes for the fissile material.

The German authorities are seeking five Iraqis after the seizure of 350g of plutonium in Munich, the largest discovery of smuggled nuclear material this year. Intelligence services are concerned that the Iraqis may now try to exploit an established network of contacts in the Far East as an alternative route because of the intensive efforts by the German authorities to stamp out nuclear smuggling.

Although intelligence services have found no evidence to suggest that Iraq, or any other nuclear ambitious state, has succeeded in acquiring bomb-grade material smuggled from Russia, there is concern, particularly in Israel, that any relaxation of UN sanctions, such as a lifting of the oil embargo, could lead to a general softer approach towards Baghdad. The Israeli fears are shared by Western intelligence services, which are keeping track of any signs of a rebirth of Iraq's nuclear weapons programme.

Rolf Ekeus, the Swedish chairman of the UN special commission, who started talks with officials of President Saddam Husayn's government, will report to the Security Council next Monday [10 October] on how far Iraq has co-operated with his mission and whether the long-term monitoring system that has been installed is ready to be tested.

A newspaper owned by Saddam's eldest son, 'Udayy, on Saturday gave a warning that Baghdad would not allow UN monitoring of its arms industry if sanctions were not lifted. Tim Trevan, a UN spokesman who accompanied Mr Ekeus, said: "We act on the position of the Iraqi government, not on editorials."

Britain and the United States remain opposed to lifting sanctions. However, an official visit to London this week by Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak, the chief of the general staff of the Israeli defence forces, will give Israel an opportunity to remind London of the need to stand firm against the Saddam government.

Eight Deported Palestinians Allowed to Return Home

TA3009182894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 30 Sep 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel has allowed eight Palestinians deported from the territories 20 years ago to return to their homes. This follows an appeal to a special military commission by the lawyer acting for the deportees, Le'a Zemmel.

Ramon's 'Vision' for Histadrut Reorganization Seen

TA3009190194 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 30 Sep 94 p 11

[Article by Sever Plotzker: "Ramon's Vision"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hayim Ramon sits in the chairman's office on the fifth floor of the Histadrut's Executive Committee building. It is still the same building, the same floor, the same room. Before him, the room was occupied by Yitzhaq Ben-Aharon, Yeruham Meshel, and Yisra'el Qeysar. And Haberfeld, too. Unlike the bureaus of the Army chief of staff or the finance minister, the Histadrut's long, narrow corridor is not decorated by predecessors' portraits. Ramon has no desire to preserve tradition; he would like to disengage himself from it. Totally. He is totally engrossed in a revolution, at the end of which the Histadrut will in no way resemble its former self.

What I found here, Ramon says, was not a state within a state; it was an empire within a state. A forbidden city whose walls were high and forbidding, which was filled with slime and decay. "Whatever I touch, I find the same: A false facade of power, with a terrible stench inside," he says, clutching his head and repeating again and again, "unbelievable, unbelievable."

A Greek legend tells of Hercules who, when tasked with cleaning out the stables, diverted two rivers to wash out the filth. Ramon has no rivers. He works with a small group of associates who clean the place by hand. Square by square. He cannot be budged from this task. Ramon: "No one can threaten me with anything, because I have nothing to lose. I found the Histadrut in such a bad state that it cannot get any worse."

Economists have drawn up the Histadrut's first-ever financial balance sheet—its total assets, liabilities, and equity capital. They found out that the Histadrut Labor Federation does not have a single penny of equity capital to its name. All it has is an accrued deficit of 1 billion shekels. The balance sheet will be reviewed and audited by independent CPA's, but "they will not find any more assets, just more debt," Ramon says.

A business conglomerate whose liabilities exceed its assets by 1 billion shekels would go bankrupt. To survive, it would be forced to give up any part of its body that was not vital for its life. It would have to cut down to "the hard core" of its businesses, to concentrate only on fields of expertise in which it has an obvious edge. Ramon is doing precisely that: He is cutting back and draining and gathering the Histadrut into a single nucleus that will concentrate on the unique activity in which it has an absolute advantage: the representation of employees. This is "the heart of the matter," he says.

And this is how the Histadrut will look according to Ramon:

—The Qupat Holim Klalit [general health insurance fund] will bid a final farewell to the Histadrut—final, but not melancholy. The health insurance fund will become a non-profit public institution owned by its members. The National Insurance Institute will collect insurance premiums and pass them on directly to the health insurance fund. Under the most recent Recovery Agreement (a temporary title), the government will assume responsibility for defraying one half of the debt—2 billion shekels—in exchange for all the health insurance fund's assets: hospitals, clinics, sanatoriums. The other half of the debt will be settled after internal reorganization.

—The Histadrut will sell its Hevrat Ha'ovdim holding company. The Histadrut will no longer control any economic corporations, neither will it own large quantities of stock in any. Its stakes in Bank Hapo'alim, Shikun Ubinuy, and Kur will be sold. The Histadrut will retain a small assorted and diversified investment portfolio capable of yielding "several million shekels" a year for cultural activities.

—Ramon's Histadrut will cease being a "Labor Federation" and will become a "Labor Unions Federation." It will become the supreme organization of the trade unions that are associated with it, some with very close ties and others having only cursory relations with it. Ramon: "We will start representing workers employed on the basis of personal contracts, who will receive extensive representation, and we will demand extension orders in vital employee-employer relations matters. The Histadrut has so far ignored them as if they did not exist. It was a crime."

—The Histadrut's main source of income will be the membership fees at the rate of 0.8 percent of the wages to be paid by every Israeli employee engaged on the basis of collective wage agreements, as well as by those employed on a personal contract basis, if they should seek trade union representation. Ramon has withdrawn his support from the bill that was to force payment of Histadrut membership fees. "There is no such law anywhere in the world, and I did not want Israel to have one," he says. Ramon will settle for a comprehensive agreement with the employers, who will collect the membership fees from their employees. Ramon hopes the Histadrut's annual income will stand at a total 350 million shekels. His associates are a bit more optimistic.

—The Histadrut will leave the north Tel Aviv area. The Executive Committee building will be cleared, as will be the buildings housing the fee collection agency, the activists school, and others. Most of these institutions will simply disappear. Others will move to the Jerusalem area. How much will the Histadrut get for its real estate, which is located in the most expensive districts in the Middle East? Not much, Ramon estimates. The Histadrut paid no state or municipal taxes.

—Some 800 men and women work in the Executive Committee building and its branches, some 2,000 at the workers councils throughout the country, and some 500 at fee collection bureaus. A total of 3,300 employees. Two-third of those—about 2,000—will be eventually fired. They "were redundant," Hayim Ramon says, "and they had unreasonable salaries and fringe benefits." Ramon has nothing nice to say about them: The work of about 75 percent of the people employed by the Histadrut machinery "had absolutely nothing to do with trade union matters; they were busy promoting their personal and party affairs."

The Histadrut will resume the negotiations on framework agreements in the non-governmental sector, but it will not focus on direct wage demands, but rather on shorter work hours and on a full transit to a five-day work week. It will demand that the special cost-of-living adjustment [COLA] agreements attained by the government and public sector be extended to the business sector employees. This means a 100 percent compensation for inflation beyond 11 percent and up to 15 percent. Ramon says the country cannot have two separate COLA arrangements: a bad one for workers at large and an improved one for civil service employees. A package deal in exchange for a slashed COLA next time? Ramon does not think much of this idea.

—The Histadrut pension funds will be gradually handed over for management by business sector companies. Had it been up to Ramon, he would have issued a tender to brokers and portfolio managers even now, for them to manage at least the two major pension funds. Meanwhile, he plans to demand that the pension funds directors "save 100 million shekels at year."

—And speaking of pension funds: The Fogel Committee report on the state of these funds "does not interest me," Ramon says. The problems of pension saving in Israel will be solved by the national pension insurance law.

—The Histadrut will end its affiliation with political parties. At the next convention, Ramon will propose new election regulations: One half of the delegates will be elected on a personal basis at work places. They will be the workers' true representatives.

—Ramon does not want the Histadrut to have a stake in a travel agency, hotels, a bookstore chain, a daily newspaper. He would like financiers to invest in the Mish'an old age home. He will get the Histadrut out of professional sports; he has already stopped money transfers to Hapo'el.

A synopsis of Ramon's vision of the Histadrut: A Histadrut that is compact, lean (the Histadrut membership may decrease by at least one-third), efficient, not centralist, profitable, and aggressive in its field of expertise. Similar to the Kur of today. Ramon in the footsteps of [Kur director general] Ga'on.

Al-Majali on King-Rabin Meeting, Awqaf Decision

JN0110220894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Oct 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali by an unidentified correspondent of Abu Dhabi TV "aired tonight"; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] There was a meeting between his majesty the king and Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in al-'Aqabah. What was the outcome of this meeting?

[Al-Majali] The Washington Declaration called for meetings from time to time between his majesty the king and the Israeli prime minister to review the progress achieved on the Jordanian-Israeli track and to remove any obstacles or misunderstandings so that the air will be clear for them to make appropriate decisions.

Therefore, this meeting was a link in this chain of meetings. It was a serious and clear meeting in which the two sides reviewed all steps taken so far, the problems facing the process, and serious attempts to overcome these problems.

[Correspondent] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam: Did you sense an Israeli response regarding withdrawal from the occupied Jordanian territories?

[Al-Majali] Of course, now that the Jordanian-Israeli border committee has been formed and all maps, evidence, and documents possessed by both sides have been reviewed by this committee, the borders must be demarcated. When the borders are demarcated, each side must commit itself to withdrawal to the agreed borders.

If the Israelis are positioned in territory that is ours, then it will be returned to us and if we are positioned in a territory that is theirs, then it will be returned to them.

[Correspondent] Are Jordan and Israel expected to sign a comprehensive agreement soon?

[Al-Majali] So far, none of the issues have reached an agreement point. As you know, the agenda contains various topics that are under discussion. None of these issues have reached their final point yet. However, there will gradually be one agreement after another from the start to the end of this process. The only agreement that has been reached is the one signed in Washington and you already know about it.

[Correspondent] So, what is the importance of his highness the crown prince's visit and his meeting with...?

[Al-Majali, interrupting] It is a continuation of the bilateral negotiations there. There are also trilateral negotiations that deal with a lot of projects that must be set up in the region.

[Correspondent] It is well known that your government played an important role on the level of inter-Arab relations and you met with His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in Vienna. Moreover, there are currently meetings between Jordanian and Gulf officials. Is there anything new on the level of relations between Jordan and the Gulf Cooperation Council States.

[Al-Majali] In fact, after the visit of His Highness Shaykh Zayid, whom I had the privilege of meeting in Geneva and after my meeting with His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, there was a meeting between the Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs and His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in New York in the presence of His Highness Prince Bandar. The meeting lasted a long time. It was a cordial and warm meeting. We hope that it will be a step leading to the restoration of normal relations with our brothers in Saudi Arabia. Moreover, a meeting was held between the UAE foreign minister and the minister of state for foreign affairs. It too was a warm, cordial, and brotherly meeting in every sense of the word. God willing, there will be an exchange of visits between us and the brothers in the near future.

[Correspondent] Iran began to step up its rhetoric against the UAE and it still refuses to give it its right to the three islands. What is Jordan's stand on this and how do you think Iran should respond to Arab rights? What is your stand?

[Al-Majali] The Arab right is clear. The sisterly UAE continues to openly announce its willingness to hold peaceful talks and negotiations to reach a satisfactory solution. However, it seems that the other side is still intransigent and intransigence will not return matters to normal. I believe that the Gulf states, or rather the states overlooking the Gulf, should avoid problems in order to reach a solid agreement through understanding and negotiations.

[Correspondent] Your government recently decided to sever the Jordanian links to the awqaf [Islamic endowments] in the West Bank. What are the dimensions of this decision and will you make a decision regarding Jerusalem and lifting the trusteeship over it?

[Al-Majali] If you are saying there is a crisis regarding the awqaf, then this crisis should be considered over now that Jordan has decided to sever links with the awqaf that belong to the brothers in the [Palestinian] autonomy. Of course, autonomy has not reached Jerusalem yet. Negotiations over Jerusalem will take place between the Palestinian brothers and Israel during the final stage. When these negotiations are held, the issue will again be reconsidered.

The Palestinian brothers own the rights to the awqaf in their territories. This is something natural. Therefore, there is no crisis. However, there are those who like to create crises for some reason. Perhaps they thrive on such statements about the existence of crises. We do not feel there is a crisis. It is being fabricated against us. We are not fabricating any crisis. We do not want to be part of any crisis.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister: Thank you for giving this interview to the UAE Television of Abu Dhabi.

Implications of Husayn-Rabin Meeting Viewed

JN0110125694 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Oct 94 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Husayn-Rabin Meeting Activates Jordanian-Israeli Negotiations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is clear that since the Washington Declaration was signed in July, negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track have achieved a noticeable breakthrough. This fact heralds a possible removal of the obstacles and difficulties preventing the regaining of our sovereign rights over our occupied territory and confiscated waters. Jordan's eagerness to render these negotiations a success is an important factor in achieving this breakthrough.

Moreover, the consensus by the Israeli political spectrum on supporting the Washington Declaration has encouraged both the Rabin government and the Israeli negotiating delegation to show some flexibility in the negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track. This was another factor in achieving this noticeable breakthrough.

No doubt, the meeting held between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in al-'Aqabah two days ago—in which they reviewed the developments of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations and the ways to activate them—will encourage the Jordanian and Israeli negotiating delegations to circumvent any obstacle to the negotiations and reach an understanding on the need to remove such obstacles based on the common agenda and the Washington Declaration.

It is clear that King Husayn is eager to hold such periodic meetings with the Israeli prime minister to review both the progress of negotiations and the difficulties facing them and also to remove any obstacle in accordance with the Washington Declaration. The king is also interested in the participation of the Clinton administration because Clinton, along with his majesty and Yitzhaq Rabin, signed the Washington Declaration. Hence, this administration can learn about the developments of negotiations and contribute to their activation and success.

The meeting which will be held between His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, President Clinton, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Washington the day after tomorrow, Monday, comes within this context and stems from an eagerness to make wide strides in the negotiations.

It should be emphasized here that Jordan, under its wise Hashemite leadership and with its negotiating delegation, adheres to the constants of its position and is very determined not to sell an iota of its occupied soil or a single drop of its share in the Jordan and al-Yarmuk rivers. Despite the fact that demarcating the Jordanian borders and regaining our share of confiscated water are top priorities, we are still eager to render the negotiations successful as a prelude to achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region. We believe that President Clinton and his administration appreciate the constants of the Jordanian position. These constants will be explained by His Highness Prince Hasan in the coming Washington meeting. We also believe that the results of the Husayn-Rabin meeting in al-'Aqabah the day before yesterday and those of the coming meeting among His Highness Prince Hasan, Clinton, and Rabin will be positively reflected in the atmosphere of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations as a prelude to achieving the required success.

Al-Majali, Belgium's Chabert Discuss Relations

JN0410101694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 94, p 3

["Special Report" by Cathy King]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali Monday [3 October] met with Jos Chabert, the visiting vice president and minister of finance of the Brussels regional government and discussed Europe's support of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

During the meeting, also attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf, the officials discussed developments in the Middle East peace process and cooperation between Jordan and Belgium to assist the accomplishment of a just, durable and comprehensive peace.

In an interview with the JORDAN TIMES, Mr. Chabert said that Dr. al-Majali had asked whether Europe would continue to support and enhance the Middle Eastern effort towards peace.

Mr. Chabert said that he would deliver a message to European makers stressing that His Majesty King Husayn, Dr. al-Majali and the people of Jordan were conscientiously aiming for peace in the region. [sentence as published]

According to Mr. Chabert, the discussions focused on peace and economic development. He also said that sustained stability in the region would be a major factor in guaranteeing a brighter future for Jordan.

The search for peace requires a step-by-step approach which will gradually lead to an increase in tourism and expansion of the economy, he added. He said that the U.S. and Europe were one political bloc fighting for democracy and were working together to help developing countries.

"Jordan has a good functional democratic structure and is working for peace," Mr. Chabert said.

Mr. Chabert is aware that market policy here is becoming increasingly open, and he said he would convey a message to Belgian business persons that there is a future in investment in Jordan. He added that a Belgium business mission visited Jordan two years ago, and he would encourage it to return to witness the progress made since the peace process gained momentum and many previous tensions have subsided.

Mr. Chabert said trade between the two countries was modest and the balance was in favor of Belgium.

He added, however, that the "volume of Jordanian foreign trade was in good shape."

During Mr. Chabert's first day in the Kingdom he also held separate discussions with the ministers of trade and industry, tourism, foreign affairs and supply.

The prime objective of Mr. Chabert's visit is to enhance bilateral relations and to obtain a clearer impression of the Kingdom, he said.

Over the next few days, he will visit Petra, al-'Aqabah and the Dead Sea, and although no firm arrangements have been made, he expects there will be other opportunities to meet high-ranking officials.

King Receives Negev Arab Bedouin Delegation

JN0310185894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn has asserted that he, along with the sons of this homeland—the homeland of [Palestinian] immigrants and [Jordanian] supporters—take pride in the Arab brothers and kinsfolk who stood fast on their land and adhered to it under very difficult and hard circumstances, and who also preserved their Arab identity and genuine character.

Receiving a delegation comprising Negev Arab bedouin chieftains and notables at the Royal Hashemite Court today, his majesty said: We feel dutybound to adopt measures and issue instructions that will remove any barriers between us, if such barriers exist.

His majesty said that our gift to coming generations should be a decent life that will bring reassurance at the individual and group levels as well as opportunities provided by an honorable, just, and comprehensive peace under which these generations will be reassured and proceed toward, and reach, their objectives and goals. [passage omitted]

Shipping Company To Open al-'Aqabah-Jeddah Line

JN0210155894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 1 Oct 94

[From the "Economic Bulletin" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokeswoman for the Evergreen Company, a giant shipping company, has stated that the company has decided to open a new branch line between the Port of al-'Aqabah and the Port of Jeddah as of 15 October.

She also said that the service will be weekly and will be coordinated with the company's line linking the Far East and the Mediterranean. She added that the Evergreen Company has chosen Ammon Company for Shipping and Transportation as its agent in Jordan.

Senate Member Makes 'Private' Visit to Syria

JN0310114894 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Zayd al-Rifa'i, [Jordanian Senate member and former prime minister], arrived in Damascus the day before yesterday on a visit described as short and private even though al-Rifa'i met with Syrian decisionmakers.

Some political observers in Amman and Damascus believe al-Rifa'i, who is close to King Husayn and [Syrian] President al-Asad, visited Damascus in an attempt to heal the rift and continue contacts between Syria and Jordan.

Iran Said Training Hizballah Fighters in Weapon Use

MM0310162194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Oct 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Tehran Purchased Stinger Missiles From Afghan Mojahedin; Hizballah Cadres Being Trained in the Use of New Generation of Weapons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed sources stressed in Tehran yesterday that Iran is training a number—not revealed—of fighters from Hezbollah's Lebanese branch [Hizballah] in the use of "a new generation of weapons."

It is believed that these weapons include U.S.-made Stinger missiles. This shoulder-mounted missile has proved highly effective against light aircraft and helicopters.

According to U.S. intelligence sources, Iran purchased some 100 Stinger missiles from Afghanistan, mainly through the Hezb-e Wahdah Eslami—a Shiite organization led by Abdol Ali Mazari and allied with fundamentalist leader Golboddin Hekmatyar.

If Lebanese Hizballah really has been supplied with Stinger missiles, it will be able to substantially reinforce its defenses against Israeli air attacks in the future. And this is also bound to encourage Hizballah to escalate its attacks on Israel without so much fear of reprisals.

According to Iranian sources, the "new-generation" weapons include a modified version of the short-range Soviet-made surface-to-surface Scud missile purchased from North Korea.

These missiles are believed to have the capability to carry chemical and biological warheads, although there is no evidence that these missiles have been shipped to Lebanon.

Hasan Hubballah, military commander of Lebanese Hizballah, confirmed in Beirut at the weekend that the new weapons had been delivered.

The Lebanese commander pledged to hit Israeli positions in southern Lebanon, but he did not say when.

Iranian sources say that about 40 to 50 Hizballah fighters are being trained in Salehabad, southwest of Tehran, in the use of the new generation of weapons.

It is not clear yet whether the training will be limited to this group or whether new groups of fighters will arrive later to train on other courses.

The U.S. CIA had offered to buy back the Stinger missiles it had supplied to the Afghan mojahedin during their fight against the Soviet occupation. It offered $10 million apiece. But the "buy-back" team returned to CIA headquarters empty-handed, and it became apparent that other customers had made higher offers. The United States believes that Iran is one of those customers.

Al-Shar' Addresses UN General Assembly

JN0310204094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that the most important characteristic of Syrian policy under President Hafiz al-Asad is the harmony between principles and reality. Principles which do not stand on realistic ground will ultimately vanish. Likewise, living with the reality without adhering to principles will lead to decadence.

Delivering Syria's speech before the UN General Assembly's 49th session this afternoon, al-Shar' asserted that Syria wants peace and realizes that everyone has an interest in such peace. Syria also realizes that peace has its own objective requirements. It is ready to fulfill the requirements which will be agreed upon, he noted.

Al-Shar' added: Syria means what it says and commits itself to what it means. The land-for-peace equation should be implemented with both its parts. He asserted that returning the entire Golan is not subject to bargaining, unjustified delay, or an inappropriate test of intentions. On this basis, Syria supports a real peace which will thrive and prosper without fabricated obstacles or arbitrary terms.

He said: Overburdening the peace process will not help this process; rather, it will pose a danger to it. This process should not be engaged in things that are outside its framework. He added: Syria agreed on the U.S. initiative, in which the United States pledged to work to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on international legitimacy and Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 as well as on the land-for-peace formula, including the finding of a political solution to the Palestinian people's national rights.

Al-Shar' continued: The United States asserted that it does not agree on annexing any parts of the territories occupied in 1967, in harmony with its previous positions which reject the implementation of the Israeli law on the Syrian Golan.

The foreign minister added: In light of the complications of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the doubts cast by the Arab parties about the Israeli intentions, Syria made two important decisions, each complimenting the other. The first decision is: Commitment to coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process. This stems from our conviction that the Arab parties will benefit from their solidarity and from Syria's position and various capabilities. On the other hand, a comprehensive solution will be a guarantee for all when they respond to the requirements of peace.

Al-Shar' added that the second decision is: That the peace option is a strategic option, so everyone will be aware of our intentions and behave accordingly. We have deep conviction that these two important decisions will be in the interest of all parties participating in the peace process.

The foreign minister added: However, regrettably, the peace process did not remain on the right path to achieve its required objective. This happened for numerous reasons, which we believe are useless to detail from this podium. We will be satisfied with referring to a substantive point revealed by their [the Israelis] public statements that they have begun to ponder the usefulness of what they been engaged in and that they have become unable to contribute to the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

The foreign minister explained that the optimistic atmosphere propagated by Israel about the considerable progress achieved by the peace process is untrue, except from its own point of view. This is because the agreements that have been concluded so far serve only Israel's demands from the land-for-peace formula. Meanwhile, the Arab side which signed those agreements is still awaiting Israel's response to its demands.

Al-Shar' said: Three years have passed since the convocation of the Madrid conference, but no just, comprehensive peace has been achieved in the Middle East. This is a fact that cannot be negated by the achievement of some progress on some tracks.

He added: Thanks to its strong influence on the mass media, Israel has regrettably succeeded is distorting information and reversing facts to such an extent that some Western mass media circles say that Syria used to use the Golan Heights to bombard the Israelis, not vice versa. Israel's objective behind reversing facts was to justify its occupation of the Golan and not withdrawing from it under security pretexts.

Al-Shar' said: The armed confrontations which took place between Syria and Israel between 1948 and 1967 had been started by Israel. The UN files and the UN Security Council resolutions which were issued during that period prove beyond any doubt that Israel was responsible for igniting the fire. It was only natural that the Syrians should, every time, defend their citizens and territory.

The foreign minister added that those facts are confirmed by the memoranda which were released by senior UN officers who were charged with supervising the truce between Syria and Israel during that period. Al-Shar' said that heights or mountains cannot obstruct the capabilities of today's sophisticated weapons. Also, right in front of the Golan Heights, stand the even higher Galilee mountains inside Israel.

Al-Shar' said: At any rate, whether or not the Israelis draw facts from this information, the UN Charter provides for a basic principle, which is the inadmissibility of the acquisition of others' territory by force.

The foreign minister said that the ongoing peace process cannot be completed without Israel's total withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Concluding his address, al-Shar' said: We believe in the fairness of our position because we have rights which we cannot cede. According to President Hafiz al-Asad, ceding any part of the homeland would mean ceding the homeland and the free will.

The foreign minister added: Our region is the cradle of human civilizations and heavenly religions. Generation after generation, its children have become experienced in confronting the invaders. It is high time our region experienced the blessings of peace and stability. This cannot be achieved by half solutions or agreements that harm national dignity and relinquish the nation's interests.

The foreign minister said: Syria wants a just peace which restores rights to their rightful owners. It wants a comprehensive peace to which peoples of the region are looking forward and under which they aspire to enjoy security, stability, and prosperity.

Urges Iran, UAE To Settle Disputes

LD0410091694 Tehran IRNA in English 0901 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Oct 4, IRNA—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' called for settlement of the differences between the Emirates and Iran through friendly talks.

Speaking at the Monday's session of the General Assembly, al- Shar' expressed hope that in their friendly talks Iran and Emirates would find an acceptable settlement to the existing differences and thererby friendship would be consolidated between the two neighboring countries.

Iran has repeatedly voiced its readiness to hold direct talks with the Emirates to settle the misunderstandings over Abu Musa Island.

However, the United States is encouraging the Arab states of the southern Persian Gulf region to persuade the Emirates to take its differences with Iran to an international arbitration.

Al-Shar' Meets With Counterparts at UN in New York

Meets Russia's Kozyrev, Egypt's Musa

JN3009181194 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Sep 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning met with Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Andrey Kozyrev on the sidelines of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly.

They talked about developments in the Middle East peace process and bilateral ties.

Last night, al-Shar' met with Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to discuss items on the General Assembly's agenda.

Meets Greece, France, Malta Counterparts

JN0110204294 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met yesterday afternoon with Greek Foreign Minister Mr. Papoulias.

Talks dealt with latest developments in the peace process, bilateral relations, and relations between Syria and the European Union.

Al-Shar' also met with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe yesterday, and discussed situation in the region, developments in the peace process, and bilateral relations.

The two sides expressed joint eagerness to bolster these relations in various fields. Talks also dealt with relations between Syria and the European Union.

The foreign minister also met with Maltese Foreign Minister Guido de Marco. Talks focussed on developments in the peace process.

UK Minister of State Hogg Meets With Officials

Discusses Ties, Peace Process

JN0310182294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1230 today, Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The meeting was attended by the British ambassador in Damascus and the Syrian ambassador to Britain.

During the meeting, Dr. Salim Yasin reviewed with the British minister the economic development achieved in Syria. He also underscored the significance of the investment climate Syria enjoys, thanks to the stability it has experienced since the inception of the glorious Corrective Movement—a factor that attracts Arab and foreign investment. Moreover, Dr. Yasin underlined the significant development achieved by the Syrians since their pursuit of political and economic pluralism as a constant course of action to build modern Syria.

Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, had earlier in the day received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The talks addressed the most recent developments in the regional peace process, bilateral ties and ways to promote them, and other issues of common interest to the two friendly states.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, Syrian Ambassador to Britain Muhammad Khudur, Western Europe Department head Muwaffaq Nassar, and the British ambassador in Damascus.

Meets With Oil Minister

JN0410075494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Nadir Nabulsi received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and his delegation at noon today. The head of the Western Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry and the British ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

The talks addressed existing ties between Syria and Britain in the field of oil, as well as means to promote them to their mutual interests. Dr. Nabulsi spoke about the launching of oil and gas industries in Syria, prospecting activities carried out in this area, and oil and gas production in the country. He dwelt on the great development achieved in these areas, particularly in the aftermath of the inception of the blessed Corrective Movement led by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. The minister noted the huge projects planned for the future. He said that the stability Syria is enjoying is a factor that should attract British companies to Syria for oil prospecting and gas exploitation projects in accordance with contracts that must be satisfactory to both sides.

Dr. Nabulsi pointed out that his ministry is currently examining the modernization of the refining industry, and the establishment of a third oil refinery in Syria to refine Syrian crude oil. Syria is considering the launching of a petrochemical project. He added: We are currently using associated and liberated gas to generate power, not to mention using it for domestic and industrial purposes. We are also conducting experiments on the possible use of gas as fuel for the vehicles of the Syrian Oil Corporation in lieu of gasoline.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the two sides agreed to promote Syrian-British cooperation in the area of oil and gas industries in Syria and carry out related projects.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN0410080094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in 1830 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 1900 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, the Syrian ambassador to Britain, and the British ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

The talks addressed bilateral economic, technical and trade ties and ways to them in various areas. [passage omitted]

Firms Face Action for Attending Event With Israelis

NC0310142194 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 3 (AFP)—Syrians who joined Israelis at a Middle East tourism conference here last week may be expelled from Syria's national tourism and travel offices association, a leading Arabic newspaper said Monday.

"It is the right of the association to expel the members who did not abide by its position not to travel to Cairo" for the meeting, Syrian Tourism Minister Amin Shamat-Abual was quoted as telling the AL-HAYAH newspaper.

Syrian tour operators from two companies attended the conference, which was held in the framework of the economic track of the Middle East multilateral talks.

Syria and Lebanon are boycotting the multilateral talks until tangible results are achieved in their bilateral peace negotiations with Israel.

The tour operators violated the association's decision "not to participate because of the presence of Israeli representatives and because the meeting is considered a form of the multilateral negotiations," said Ahmad al-Hulwani, the assistant tourism minister.

The two-day conference, organized by the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) under the auspices of the US State Department, was aimed at boosting regional tourism as the Arabs and Israelis pursue the peace process.

Government and tourist industry representatives from 13 countries attended the conference.

Organizers said eight tour operators from Syria attended the conference.

Afghanistan

Mas'ud: 'Irrefutable' Evidence of Uzbek Involvement

MM0410115694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Oct 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Kabul, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, one of the most prominent commanders in the Afghan conflict, has accused Uzbekistan of participating "fully" in the civil war raging in Afghanistan for the past 30 months. Mas'ud—who in the past held the post of Afghan defense minister and is now the commander of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] party's armed factions, which are in control of most parts of the capital Kabul and large parts of north and west Afghanistan—said over the telephone that the Uzbek interference gives the Afghan conflict "a new dimension." He warned that his forces could resort to "a suitable measure to teach the aggressor a lesson."

Mas'ud went on: "We have irrefutable evidence that Uzbek regular forces are fighting alongside our adversaries...and the Uzbek Air Force is participating in the air raids launched against civilian locations, including Kabul." Asked about the evidence, which he describes as irrefutable, of the Uzbek involvement, he said that his men intercepted and recorded radio contacts between fighter aircraft pilots and their base in Termez inside the Uzbek territory adjacent to Afghanistan.

Mas'ud went on to say that the Uzbek Air Force launched a series of raids on Qonduz city in north Afghanistan, where fierce fighting is taking place between his forces and the militia forces led by 'Abdol Rashid Dostam. He said that at least six tanks belonging to Dostam's forces have been destroyed, 200 of his elements killed or wounded, and 300 captured. It seems now that Qonduz has become a vital target for the two sides, especially as Mas'ud intends to use it as a base for his forces from which to launch their winter campaign again Mazar-e Sharif city, Dostam's stronghold.

The former Afghan defense minister says that "there is another power behind Uzbekistan's decision to "enter the Afghan ring." Even though he declined to name it, it was apparent that he meant Russia. As is known, Russian troops were deployed recently on the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border. Mas'ud is very concerned that the Russian presence itself might be translated into open intervention in the Afghan conflict. While it was not clear whether there were regular Uzbek military personnel among those captured by Mas'ud's forces in Qonduz, he said that the "evidence" is now with Borhanoddin Rabbani, interim president of Afghanistan, who will submit it to the United Nations.

The regional picture is confused. As is known, Dostam was a communist militia leader in the past and is now allied with Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], which is said to be supported by Pakistan. But Mas'ud's advisers claim that the Dostam-Hekmatyar alliance has recently won the approval of Iran and Russia. And that the Iranian support is evident in the attacks launched by the forces of the Shiite Wahdah Party—which is committed to Tehran's line—on the positions of Mas'ud's forces in Kabul. The Wahdah Party began the battle by fighting the Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] party in Afghanistan, a Shiite organization led by Ayatollah Mohseni, one of Mas'ud's allies. But a few days ago the Wahdah Party expanded its attacks, targeting the positions of Mas'ud's forces.

As for Russian support for the Dostam-Hekmatyar alliance, this is reflected in Uzbekistan's increasing activities, according to Mas'ud's sources. The Uzbek Government-controlled Tashkent radio launched a violent attack on Mas'ud, accusing him of working to establish "a Tajik empire" that includes the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan and areas currently belonging to Uzbekistan. And last month Yevgeniy Primakov, chief of Russian intelligence, published a report in which he warned of the emergence of a "Persian empire" in Central Asia. For his part, Uzbek President Islam Karimov does not conceal his determination to vigorously confront what he described as "Tajik nationalist fundamentalism." And although his support for the Dostam-Hekmatyar alliance surprises some people, it is based on logical considerations. Karimov believes that Ahmad Shah Mas'ud is his grimmest enemy at present. Karimov believes—and hopes—that once Mas'ud is defeated, Dostam will become "Afghanistan's strong man" and the role of the isolated Hekmatyar will be increasingly marginalized, even inside his Pashtu base.

That leaves Iran, whose position—even though it seems to arouse surprise—is also based on logical calculations. Logic says that Tehran should support Mas'ud, (the Tajik) who speaks Persian and represents the majority of Persian-speaking people in Afghanistan. But Mas'ud and the leaders of his party in general are Sunni Muslims who rejected and condemned the Iranian model of the mullahs' rule, thus Tehran classifies them as enemies.

Government Planes Bomb West of Kabul

LD0310192594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to Afghanistan's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], the party of Hekmatyar, say President Borhanoddin Rabbani's planes today heavily bombed positions of the opposition forces in the Dasht-e Barchi and Darolaman, west of Kabul. According to these sources, as a result of the bombing at least 28 people were killed and 15 others were injured. The bombing also destroyed a large number of houses in the residential districts.

Hekmatyar Attack Said Repulsed Near University

LD0310174694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An offensive of the Golboddin militia was repulsed near Kabul University last night. The Golboddin militia along with Abdol Ali Mazari men mounted a heavy offensive near Kabul University, where their offensive encountered the resistance of the mojahedin of Islamic army of the country. The Golboddin and Mazari band militia fled after several were killed. The mojahedin of Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] and Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] and other mojahedin of the Islamic army of the country recently cleared Kabul University of the dirt of the Golboddin militia and the militia of Mazari's band. According to a report by the security sources, another offensive of the murdering and corrupt militia was repulsed last night in Khinjan. The Golboddin-Dostam militia have recently suffered heavy losses of life in different parts of the country especially in the provinces of Kondoz and Baghlan. Over the past week, 800 militia were killed and taken prisoner in the surrounding of Erganak in Kondoz. Six generals are among the prisoners. The militia, who have lost their combat morale, left 10 tanks in the battlefield, two BM41 [rocket launchers], six pieces of artillery, and a large quantity of assorted ammunition, which have been all captured by the mojahedin of the Islamic army. [passage indistinct]

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Urges Opposition To Return

BK0210091494 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman, the chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP], has called upon the opposition parties to return to the parliament with a view to resolving the nation's problems. Addressing a mammoth public meeting at Manik Mia Avenue in Dhaka today afternoon, Ziaur Rahman said that the BNP believes in holding a dialogue in this elected parliament for resolving all issues including the strengthening of the election system. She appealed to the opposition parties to hold talks with an open mind extend assistance to lead the current development programs in the country and to consolidate the democratic institutions. Ziaur Rahman said that the opposition parties should refrain from resorting to strikes and blockades in the greater interest of the people, development, and democracy.

The prime minister said that BNP came to power with the mandate of the people, and it will remain in power for a term of five years with the cooperation of the people. People will not be misled by false pledges. The prime minister said that despite the antidevelopment programs of the opposition parties aimed at discouraging investments, foreign investments in the country are continuing to increase. Ziaur Rahman said that some opposition parties in league with the autocrats who ruled the country for nine years are indulging in activities aimed at foiling the development programs of an elected government. The prime minister said that BNP has initiated a democratic process in the country and that process will continue. She said the opposition parties are trying to establish an undemocratic government by violating the mandate of the people and constitution of the country. They want to remove a democratic government. Ziaur Rahman said that their demand is not acceptable to the people.

Referring to the development programs taken by the present government, the prime minister said that for the first time since independence, a food for education program has been launched by the government. The BNP chairperson said the present government has fulfilled majority of its election pledges, and it is making efforts to boost production in the mills and factories. She said the government is making untiring efforts to eradicate poverty from the rural areas by creating new job opportunities. Ziaur Rahman said her public meetings held in Sylhet, Chittagong, Khulna, and Dhaka have clearly proved that the people are with the BNP government. She rejected the opposition allegation that the present government has failed to work for the welfare of the people. In this regard, she drew the attention of the people to the various development schemes taken up by her government.

Our correspondent reports that this public meeting, which was held under the auspices of the Dhaka city unit of the BNP, was addressed by the secretary general of the BNP and minister for local government, rural development, and cooperatives, Abdus Salam Talukdar; Home Minster Abdul Matin Chowdhury; Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam; Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman; State Minister for Science and Technology Abdul Mannan; and State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum. It was presided over by the president of the Dhaka city unit of BNP and minister for food, Mir Shawkat Ali.

Finance Minister Views Economic Situation

BK0110153094 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 23 Sep 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Saifur Rahman has said that foreign investments will be made in this country if there is a reduction in the number of strikes and blockades. He added if the opposition parties achieve this, they will make a great contribution for the sake of the economy. The minister said that it will be good for the economy of the country if we are able to resolve the prevailing political situation as soon as possible. He said both the government and the opposition parties work for the welfare of the country. If we are able to overcome the prevailing crisis through dialogue, then more investors will come and economic growth will be achieved. He said the precondition for achieving a 7 percent growth rate is political stability and consensus. The minister added that during the past three and a half years the government has achieved unprecedented success in the fields of education, health, and human resource development. He said this at a news conference held yesterday at the Finance Ministry. The news conference was attended by Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed; Board of Investment Executive Chairman Mokammel Haque; Bangladesh Bank Governor Khorshed Alam; External Resources Division Secretary Harunur Rashid; Education Secretary A.H.M. Abdul Hye; National Board of Revenue Chairman Akbar Ali; Bureau of Statistics Director General Dr. Towfiq Elahi Chowdhury; and senior officials. This news conference was arranged to brief reporters about the prevailing economic situation in the country. The finance minister apprised reporters about the various economic programs taken up during the term of office of the present government and clarified certain issues raised by Sheikh Hasina, the opposition leader and chief of the Awami League.

The finance minister told reporters that he will leave for Madrid, Spain on 25 September to attend the 50th founding anniversary celebrations of the IMF. He is the chairman of the board of governors of the IMF. The finance minister stated that the prevailing political situation is not agreeable. He said both the government and the opposition parties are making efforts to overcome this crisis. He expressed optimism that the political leaders will be able to overcome the crisis through wisdom and farsightedness. He expressed the hope that the two sides will be able to reach an understanding through their good intentions and that the situation will improve. The finance minister said if it is not possible to resolve the crisis through the fault of any party then it will have an adverse impact on the investment climate and on the implementation of the annual development programs.

Rahman said that it is not true that the secretary general of the Commonwealth has called for the holding of elections under a caretaker government. He said the secretary general was not invited by the government side.

Briefing reporters about the prevailing state of the economy in the country, the Minister Rahman said the economy is improving since the announcement of the national budget three months ago. He said the rural economy has gained momentum. Disbursement of rural loans has increasesd. The finance minister added that grants amounting to 22.12 billion taka were sanctioned for 8,279 educational institutions during the last fiscal year. Out of this amount, a total of 13.88 billion taka has already been disbursed. The finance minister said the target for the allocation of grants to educational institutions during the current fiscal year has been fixed at 31.1 billion taka. During the first two months of the year, grants amounting to 4.06 billion taka have already been sanctioned. The finance minister denied the allegation by some quarters that there has been a reduction in the disbursement of grants. He said the disbursement has been more than the target fixed for the purpose.

The finance minister added that the Board of Investment has accorded registration to 1,919 industrial organizations during the period between March 1991 to August 1994. According to an estimate of the Ministry of Industries, investments worth 50 billion taka were made during this period. There has been more investment in the rural industrial sector. Distribution of loans among the rural people increased by 30 percent this year compared to last year. The finance minister said that the present government is making more investments for the development of human resources. Work for the development of the rural areas has been intensified.

Referring to expenditure in the education sector, the finance minister said that 36.5 billion taka will be spent for this sector during fiscal year 1994-95. A total of 7,360 secondary schools in all the subdistricts of the country will be developed during the year. During the last fiscal year, a total of 13,550 primary schools were constructed, repaired, or renovated and appointments were given to a total of 12,569 teachers. He said more teachers will be recruited. The minister added that a scholarship will be provided to all female students in the rural areas.

The finance minister added that by the end of this year an additional amount of 7 billion taka may be added to the 110 billion taka allocated for the development budget. The minister further said that apart from constructing the Buriganga Bridge and the Sitalakhya Bridge, the present government will also construct two flyovers at Mohakhali and Saidabad areas of Dhaka city.

The finance minister said that "money is no problem" and added that pure water is being supplied to 96 percent of the villages in Bangladesh. He said that this rate is the highest in Asia. Rahman added that presently about 15 percent of the total population of the country has been brought under the sewerage network. This year the percentage of the population under this network would be raised to 35 percent. He added that with a view to eradicating poverty, the government has allocated 1 billion taka for the Foundation for Rural Employment Generation and added that if necessary more funds will be provided to this organization.

Referring to allocation of wheat for test relief work, the finance minister said that the allocation has been increased from 30,000 tons to 50,000 tons. Turning to imports, the finance minister said that imports have not increased as there has been a reduction in the import of foodgrains. The minister said that there has also been a reduction in imports as smuggling of imported goods to India has stopped. The finance minister said that there has been a reduction in the import of consumer goods but the import of industrial raw materials has increased. The minister added that there has also been an increase in the volume of exports.

The minister said that 3,000 apartments will be built for government employees. He refuted the allegation made by the opposition leader that 5,000 industrial units in the country have become "sick." He termed this figure as imaginary. He said the government has enlisted 900 "sick" industrial units and added that most of these units have been rehabilitated. About 300 units are yet to be rehabilitated.

Referring to the liquidity of banks, Rahman said that with a view to strengthening the capital structure of nationalized commercial banks, the government has provided a cash amount of 11 billion taka and bonds worth 6.25 billion taka to these banks. He said that the liquidity position of banks is very comfortable at present.

Turning to the golden handshake program, the finance minister said that employees are now voluntarily accepting this scheme. Referring to the fiscal situation in the country between 1972 to 1975, the minister said during that period only 4 percent of the budget was allocated for the health sector. He said no comparison can be made between the present situation and the situation prevailing in those days. Replying to a question regarding newsprint, Rahman said that he has no objection to the free import of newsprint. The industries secretary also said that his ministry also does not have any objection to it. The minister gave the assurance that he would look into the matter. Referring to mosquito menace in the country, the Rahman said that it is the duty of the city corporation to eradicate mosquitoes. When his attention was drawn to a statement made by the former mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, Mirza Abbas, that it is not the duty of the corporation to kill mosquitoes, the minister said: Whatever I say is correct.

India

EU Call For Terrorism Halt in Kashmir Welcomed

BK3009164294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Sep 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has welcomed the call given by the European Union for stopping the external support to terrorism in Kashmir. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the call shows that they are aware of the developments and Pakistan's support to terrorism. Reiterating New Delhi's offer to resume the dialogue with Pakistan, the spokesman said there is no response from Islamabad despite repeated offers by India to continue the dialogue.

Conditions for Development Cooperation Protested

BK0110110394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, says India will resist all attempts to turning democracy, human rights, and environment protection into conditionality for development cooperation. Addressing the 18th annual ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 countries in New York, he said developing countries attach priorities to these objectives and do not need any prodding from the donor countries.

UK Group Notes Pakistani Role in Arming Militants

BK0110131494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The visiting British parliamentary group has fully supported India's efforts to restore the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the leader of the group, Mr. (Towi Jessel), said India's interests will be served better in associating communal parliamentary groups with the election process. [sentence as heard] The visit is at the intiative of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, who had suggested such a trip while in London early this year. Asked whether the group felt that Pakistan is fomenting terrorism in the valley, Mr. (Jessel) said it has a hand in the supply of arms to the militants.

'Wide Range' of Economic Matters Viewed With UAE

BK3009133894 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1450 GMT 29 Sep 94

["Press Release" issued on 29 September; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The eighth meeting of the Indo-UAE [United Arab Emirates] Joint Commission was held in Abu Dhabi on September 26-27, 1994. Mr. Salman Haidar, secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi and His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Khalifa Bin Yousuf Al Suwaldi, director, Department of Economic Relations and International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abu Dhabi, led the respective delegations.

During his stay in Abu Dhabi, Mr. Salman Haidar called on His Excellency Mr. Sa'id Ghabbash, minister of economy and commerce, and His Excellency Mr. Saif Saeed Saed, acting under secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The joint commission reviewed with satisfaction the progress made on various subjects agreed in the previous meetings. The joint commission discussed a wide range of issues relating to investment, trade, economy, banking, industry, agriculture and water resources, electricity, posts and telegraphs, consular, and manpower matters. Exchanges in the fields of education, art and culture, and media were also discussed.

Both sides discussed the extradition treaty and noted that considerable progress towards concluding a treaty has been made. Discussions at technical level between the UAE and India will be held shortly to finalise the treaty. With a view to attracting UAE investments in India, the UAE was invited to send a delegation to India during this year for examining prospects of investments in tourism and hotel sector. Both sides are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding [MOU] shortly with regard to construction of a hotel-cum-hospital near Bombay with UAE assistance. For consolidating existing ties in the banking sector, an invitation was renewed to the UAE Central Bank governor to visit India soon and request for opening branches of UAE banks in India would be considered sympathetically.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the steady and considerable increase in the volume of trade between the two countries. The Indian side invited a health delegation to visit India in near future to make on-the-spot studies and contacts with manufacturers and exporters of Indian pharmaceuticals in order to facilitate their registration. India conveyed its intention to purchase oil from the UAE in enhanced quantity during 1994-95. The UAE side conveyed interest in deepening cooperation in the field of agriculture and water resources sector and both sides agreed to sign a MOU in this regard during the forthcoming visit of honorable minister of agriculture of UAE to India. A delegation from UAE will visit India in October 1994 for carrying out feasibility study for a joint venture for supply of bauxite ore from India for setting up of an aluminum plant in the UAE. It was noted with appreciation the tremendous success of exclusive India Exhibition held in Dubayy in September 1994 and hoped that UAE companies will also participate in specialised fairs in India in future to increase bilateral trade. Both sides also agreed to strengthen the bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, art and culture, and media.

The ninth meeting of the joint commission will take place in New Delhi in April 1995 on mutually convenient dates.

Clinton 'Blunders' on Terrorism Viewed

BK3009123194 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 29 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "How Could Bill Clinton Have Saved Himself?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no way that U.S. Presidents can escape appearing ridiculous. Former Vice President Dan Quayle was the object of great ridicule, but by the time President George Bush reached the end of his term he began to realize that Quayle was actually a more serious-minded man than himself. However, Bill Clinton has not taken as much time. After positioning himself as on a slide in his Presidency, he has been slipping and sliding ever since. Although there have been discussions on the elusive character of his policies and decisions, far more talk has focussed on his elusive character. However, recently his tongue slipped while he was addressing the United Nations General Assembly. Meaning to say that the U.S., Russia, and Germany have enhanced cooperation on anti-terrorism training, he instead said "for training in terrorism." Although he paused for a while, he managed to repeat his slip of the tongue. This is nothing unusual; his habit is to repeat his mistakes with reckless abandon.

While this was not a big mistake, it was certainly a slip of the mighty U.S. President's delinquent tongue and that too in the august assembly of the world body. Accordingly, many explanations for this were officially advanced. The White House spokesman categorically denied involvement with Russia and Germany in training terrorists. Although nobody would have believed what the President uttered, it still needed a variety of explanations because it was a presidential slip. Who would believe America is involved in the training of terrorists? The United States is dedicated to establishing peace and democracy around the world. The U.S. denounces terrorism, supports those who fight terrorism, and imposes stringent sanctions and other restrictions on those who sponsor and support terrorists. There are many who would readily testify to this fact.

We Indians are very well aware of the U.S. antipathy toward terrorism. In many countries, such as Nicaragua, the democratically elected leadership, governing with U.S. help, can also vouch for this fact. On the other hand, many countries in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, such as Iran and Pakistan, and many tyrannical dictators can honestly swear that the Americans have never rendered any help. The era has gone when regular training centers existed for terrorists and hired soldiers, who were bought like commodities in a country market. Today, the U.S. does not help terrorists, but spreads a reign of terror itself, as in Somalia and other places.

Poor Russia has been reduced to a state rendered incapable of spreading terrorism abroad as it is severely occupied by the growing terrorist menace within its own borders. There the open economy has created anarchic conditions, in which unadulterated terrorism and looting are the rule of the day. The whole business is conducted by the mafia, who are having a field day. The government greatly needs help to tackle the terrorist menace caused by this open market system. Germany presently lags behind Russia, but is not far off.

Hence Bill Clinton's slip of tongue is actually no slip at all. It is like his other faux pas and blunders. If evasiveness is actually the basis for a country's existence, what excuse can the president offer? So, whatever Bill Clinton uttered is in a sense a reality.

Separatist 'Agitation' in Uttar Pradesh Spreads

BK0310161394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Uttar Pradesh, three persons have been killed and 40 injured in violence in Kumar and Garhwal divisions as agitation by the Uttarakhand activists [demanding separate state in hill region of Uttar

Pradesh] continued today. Two deaths occurred in Deahradun and another at Nainital, where agitationists pelted stones on police outposts and government offices. In addition to Dehradun, curfew has been imposed in Rishkesh, Pauri, Shrinagar, and Kotswar. The situation in these areas is described as tense, but under control. The Garhwal university has been closed till the 16th of this month. Police had to open fire to control violent mobs in Haridwar, Rishikesh and Pauri. Two police personnel and two others were injured in Rishikesh, while the ADM [additional district magistrate] of Pauri was injured seriously. Pithoragarh, Nainital and Almora observed total bundh [strike] and agitationists pelted stone in (Karnprayaj) and Nainital.

The state chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, had a 20-minute meeting with the prime minister in New Delhi today. Mr. Yadav apprised Mr. Narasimha Rao of the law and order situation in the state and later flew back to Lucknow. The Congress-I high command is keeping a close watch on the political situation and is even considering withdrawal of support to the Mulayam Singh Yadav government. Stating this in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, demanded an immediate judicial probe by a sitting high court judge into yesterday's police firing in Muzaffarnagar. The state government has ordered an enquiry by a retired judge, Justice Rajeshwar Singh. A delegation of Congress-I leaders from the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh called on the prime minister today and demanded the immediate dismissal of the Mulayam Singh Yadav government.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has again demanded the dismissal of the Mulayam Singh Yadav government, holding it for responsible for the firing in Dehradun. The party spokesman, Mr. K.L. Sharma, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the home minister should make a statement on the incident. The party demanded a statement from the prime minister on the plague situation in the country. The left parties have said firing was a preplanned attack on peaceful demonstrators. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] called upon the Uttar Pradesh government to realize the gravity of the situation and work for a peaceful solution to meet the demands of the hill people. The CPI [Communist Party of India] urged the state government to bring to book all police and other officials responsible for the incident.

Agitation Reports Rounded Up

BK0310120594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Uttar Pradesh, agency reports from Dehradun say that curfew was clamped in the city from this morning following incidents of violence in the wake of yesterday's police firing on Uttarakhand agitators in Muzaffarnagar. A violent mob yesterday burned down a liquor godown and pelted stones at the police. Meanwhile, reports from Lucknow say that one injured person in yesterday's incident at Muzaffarnagar died today in a Chandigarh hospital. With this, the death toll has gone has gone up to five. As already reported, the Uttar Pradesh government has ordered a judicial enquiry into the incident, which will be conducted by a high court judge.

In the state, school teachers are on an indefinite strike from today in the Garhwal division to protest against yesterday's police firing at Muzaffarnagar on Uttarakhand activists. Our correspondent reports from Pauri that shops and business establishments in the division have been closed since yesterday. Offices are not functioning for last 14 days because of the strike by the employees. Processions have been taken out at several places in the Garhwal division to protest against yesterday's incident. Traffic is. however, normal and essential services like supply of water and electricity have not been affected.

Navy To Expand Fleet of Survey Ships

BK0310161194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indian Navy is to expand its fleet of six survey ships. Four more ships will be added by the turn of the century. This is to help the Navy to increase its share in the multimillion dollar business of searching the coastlines of Indian Ocean country. According to chief hydrographer, Commodore K.R. Srinivasan, the Naval Hydrographic Department is endeavoring to market its capabilities and services to the developing countries in South Asia. The department's plan assumes importance following interest shown by some West Asian countries on availing its services. It has recently completed the survey of Oman's coastline in a $5 million contract.

Iran

Velayati Addresses ICO Ministers at UN

LD0410082694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran's Foreign Minister last night addressed a meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers, held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. The foreign minister explained Tehran's viewpoints on issues relating to the world of Islam and international affairs.

Mr. Velayati described as positive the results of cooperation between Islamic countries toward defending the rights of Muslims in various arenas, including Bosnia, and the conspiracy relating to the publication of "The Satanic Verses," and added: More use must be made of the latent capacities and capabilities of the ICO.

The foreign minister criticized the violation of the rights of Muslims in some European countries and called on the ICO to confront this problem. Mr. Velayati also spoke about the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts toward resolving regional conflicts.

Meets With Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz

LD0410090494 Tehran IRNA in English 0741 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 4, IRNA—Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz called for closer ties with Iran in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday.

The two ministers who are currently here to take part in the ongoing meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, discussed Tehran-Baghdad ties as well as international and regional developments.

Foreign Minister Velayati termed as "possible and fruitful" settlement of problems and establishment of cooperation between the two countries.

Renewing the invitation already extended to Velayati to pay an official visit to Baghdad, Tariq Aziz stressed the possibility for closer cooperation between the two countries on the basis of common interests.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister also underlined the importance of exchange of diplomatic delegations between Baghdad and Tehran for the settlement of the remaining problems.

Meanwhile, an informed source told IRNA that Velayati's visit to Baghdad has been reviewed and the Iranian foreign minister would possibly leave for that country in a near future.

Velayati's trip will follow the visit to Iraq of a high-ranking delegation of Iranian experts.

Also on Monday, Velayati discussed Tehran-Manama ties and regional developments with his Bahraini counterpart Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak al Khalifah.

Terming bilateral ties as good, the Bahraini foreign minister described Iran as the factor of stability in the Persian Gulf region.

The Bahraini official also expressed dissatisfaction with the existing misunderstandings between Iran and the Emirates.

Velayati warned that fanning the flames of misunderstandings will be to the detriment of the collective interests of the region.

The only way to settle the existing misunderstandings between the two countries, he said, is the resumption of mutual ties without any preconditions.

The Iranian foreign minister stressed that forcing others to issue baseless statements could not solve any problem and would rather add to the misunderstandings.

Velayati stressed that interests of the region and good neighborly ties should not be made a scapegoat by foreign powers who have not shown good-will towards security and cooperation in the Persian Gulf region.

He reminded that his invitation extended to the Emirates foreign minister in response to his last year trip to that country was still valid.

Meanwhile, Velayati discussed the developments in North Africa, particularly in Algeria, in a meeting with his Moroccan counterpart Abdellatif Filali.

During the meeting Filali expressed hope that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would take part in the summit meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to be held in Morocco in December.

Foreign ministers of South Korea, Nigeria, the Czech Republic and Myanmar [Burma] met separately with Velayati on Monday and discussed with him mutual ties as well as regional and international developments.

Lifting of UN Embargo on Iraq Urged

NC0310142394 Paris AFP in English 1002 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 3 (AFP)—Iran has a strategic interest in having Iraq re-emerge as a regional power, a senior Iranian official said Monday as he called for a lifting of the UN embargo against Baghdad.

"For our national security and interest, there is nothing more vital than a stable and prosperous regime in Baghdad," the deputy head of parliament's foreign affairs subcommittee, Mohammad Javad Larijani, told Monday's IRAN NEWS.

Such a government is needed to "defend the sovereignty and integrity of the country against" foreign threats, he told the English-language newspaper.

Larijani said it was in Iraq's interest to have "good neighborly" relations with the Islamic republic, adding that Tehran had "already welcomed" improving ties.

He called for the lifting of the four-year UN embargo on Baghdad, saying the punishment imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August, 1990 had "lost its legitimacy."

"The lifting of the embargo is bound to be positive for Iran," Larijani added.

He argued that the presence of the United States in the Gulf was based on the "threat posed by the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the fragile and primitive regimes in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait."

But Washington's "odd and ambitious" strategy in the Gulf would eventually end up destabilising the Gulf Arab states, Larijani predicted, adding that Tehran and Baghdad would be the main beneficiaries.

"It will be Iran and Iraq which will set the course for the main decisions concerning major issues of the Persian Gulf in the future," he said.

Jannati Sermon Discusses Islands Dispute

LD3009164494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Friday prayers second sermon delivered by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in Tehran on 30 September—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] An issue about which I would like to talk is a sensitive one, one which I would like you to heed carefully. The conditions in our country today are special; they are not ordinary. Those enemies who received blows from this revolution, who suffered defeats, were disgraced. In fact the revolution shamed them to the world and encouraged nations to fight them. It gave the people of the world the courage that they could grapple with them and win. It brought a ray of hope to the world. In the revolution's wake, nations have awakened and are rising. The wave of Islamism is spreading every day. The number of bloody Islamic movements, in which they defend themselves and risk their lives and are martyred, are on the increase. That, in itself, has threatened the enemy and they are not sitting still.

The enemy's current aim, of which you should all be aware, is to defeat this revolution, this Islam. [passage omitted] That is their aim. That is very clear. I do not think that any person who is familiar with the most trivial of current events would doubt it. That is the aim; it is nothing but. You see what they are doing. They resort to any means for that aim. They find any excuse to reach that aim.

You see that the issue of Salman Rushdie is one which is not important enough to become the world's topical issue. But they raised it in such a way that America, Europe, and other countries raised it under various pretexts. They have used it as a means to condemn us. What if, hypothetically speaking, a person who is against the prophet is killed; you are killing so many people in the world. The earth is covered with the blood of the innocent people killed by you. If a person is killed for desecrating the sanctities of more than one billion Muslims, is that important?

That was one issue.

We see that they try to create distrust between us and our neighbors; they try to make them frightened of us. [passage omitted] One experienced and knowledgeable political official used to say that every morning CIA agents go to Saudi Arabia and brief King Fahd on what is happening in the world, in the region. Well, it has no information, so it gets its information from them. These agents create fear and apprehension in the Saudis hearts, saying that Iran is amassing arms, is producing nuclear arms. They create an ogre of Iran in their eyes so that they, in turn, give in and ask what they should do. Then these agents tell them what to do. That is the reason for the creation of an atmosphere of apprehension. They tell them: Buy arms. After all, they must mobilize their arms factories and those employed in these fields, and keep supplying arms. This is on the reckoning that Iran is amassing arms, so that they should do so as well, because if one day they are invaded they can defend themselves. And that looks good on the surface.

Regarding the three islands, that is a very clear issue. There were no arguments over this issue until now. What has happened so that suddenly, after many years, when the islands were in Iran's hands and nobody would utter a word, that now, at this juncture, there is suddenly a lot of noise about them? What has happened; what is new? What happened is that they [as heard] want to make the issue another tool with which to inflict blows against us and to create bad feelings toward us. Either to provoke them against us or sell arms to them, saying to them: Go on, you must take the islands by force.

We also see that they [as heard] talk a lot about human rights violations. No matter how many human beings America kills, no human rights are violated. But if we kill a drug trafficker then that is a human rights violation. If they create many loose women in the world, ruin many generations, corrupt men and women, then the rights of women and the rights of men have not been trampled on. But if we say that Islamic dress must be observed so that the women's honor is preserved, and the men's honor is preserved, then human rights are violated. The scandal reaches to a point whereby in France—with all its claims to being the cradle of civilization—they make an issue of the matter of pieces of cloth on the heads of four girls and cause the Muslims to demonstrate and create a fuss. What is going on? You talk of freedom! She wants to cover her hair; what is that to you? Aren't people free to choose their clothes? Well, we see that that is the way they act. Now, that is not against freedom, but if we say that women must cover themselves so that they are not bothered by lechers, then that is against freedom.

In short, they resort to anything to achieve their goal. The goal is the establishment of their own sovereignty over Islamic lands. That is their goal.

Look at the issue of the sanctions. They exert economic pressure as much as they can. They exert pressure through the issue of oil prices. They do that from all directions. They want to make the world think badly of us. They intend to show our country as being a country on the verge of bankruptcy. There is a great deal of such idle talk, and I do not wish to repeat their idle remarks.

Those facts are undeniable. What should be done to confront the problem and what is our duty? Our duty is that all of us, the government, the nation, spiritual leaders, students, workers, businessmen, office workers, military personnel, and anyone who breathes the air in this country should understand these enemy threats and conspiracies and stand up to the enemy wholeheartedly, as we all mobilized at the beginning of the revolution to fight the enemy. [Crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

Imagine the country is like a castle surrounded by walls. The enemy might infiltrate from any side. Naturally there should be forces deployed in the vulnerable positions to be alert and crush the enemy if he tries to infiltrate. [passage omitted]

Another issue of the day, which I must mention, is a delicate matter and one must be careful when discussing it: We are now facing a widespread predicament of price rises. This is an undeniable predicament; and it is a widespread predicament. Well, every one has to eat something. The price of foodstuffs is high. Apart from foodstuffs, other essential commodities are expensive.

The esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution [Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i] issued instructions. We expect to hear a very clear answer to his instructions. It must become clear what steps have been taken in the wake of these instructions. His eminence said: Some of these price rises are inevitable. Frankly, nothing can be done. I mean even if we all put our heads together, we would not be able to tackle the problem under the existing circumstances. We must plan for the future. At present we cannot cure this malady. Very well, now that the problem is clear we have to put up with it. This sort of malady must be tolerated. It is like a sick person who has to put up with a period of pain until the illness is overcome. It is the time for patience, the time of tolerance. We must keep instilling the idea into our minds that at the present we must remain patient. There is no point in shouting and screaming. We must not protest against anyone unjustifiably and we must not condemn anyone unduly. This was the first category of price rises.

The next category is price rises that can be avoided. His eminence, as a well-informed discerning personality who is aware of all the minor and major issues of the country, and in the status of vice regent of the jurisconsult [vali-e faqih], graciously said: Not all price rises are unavoidable. Very well, let us identify those which can be avoided. We must not be negligent. In this case we cannot expect patience. In the previous instance I recommended patience. Whereas here there is no place for patience. Here we must see action. For this purpose there is a need for some sort of public mobilization. That is, the government and the Majles should sit and study the problem very carefully. They should first identify the factors responsible for the avoidable price rises; and then they should take action to deal with it as a serious problem.

I am saying that if we are facing a domestic problem, one could perhaps attach not much importance to it, despite it being a major problem. The problem, however, is that of vulnerability to enemy infiltration. That is, the enemy wishes to see a deteriorating state of the people's economy. When the people's economic plight worsens, they could raise their hands in surrender before the enemy. They would then say: Fine, we cannot bear it any longer, come and do as you wish; at least we will have a full belly, then you can deal with us in any way that suits you. This is the objective pursued by our enemies. Do not forget this.

Our economic policy decision makers shoulder a heavy burden of responsibility here. They must observe patience, pay attention, and must discuss the matter carefully. They must not pass the problem by so easily. Of course, at this point I must say that a large number of our responsible officials are truly working with good will. They hold responsible positions, they think of the problem, and are doing something. I am not saying they are totally indifferent to the problem.

However, there are some who do not know what is wrong. Of course, there are a small number who are like that. Rarely, there are some individuals who cannot believe prices are rising, as if we are telling them yoghurt is white and they seek dozens of reasons to prove that yoghurt is black. There are some like that. Anyone opening his eyes can see the problem. But when one closes his eyes and seeks proof and excuses, this would show him to be blind to the facts. Such individuals are rare. But frankly, they cannot understand the issue. However, most of them are not like that.

I wish to mention another point here. Good infrastructural plans are prepared for the future. When we safely come through this phase, God willing, our future will be much better than our past and our present fate. If future plans reach fruition, the economic status of the country and the people will improve greatly. Let us not forget this.

Another point which we should not forget—and many successful things have already been done about it—is that some Construction Jihad officials told me—of course, I am not familiar with the details—that we are on the verge of self-sufficiency regarding dairies. Of course, prices are high; but costs are high, too. Being on the verge of self-sufficiency does not mean that we can sell for lower prices. [passage omitted] And there are other sectors that are active, as you see every day, like the commissioning of petrochemical plants. These should be noted. We must not be so blind as not to see all the facts. But that does not mean that if we combat some high prices we should not act against other price increases; it does not mean that. As I have said, the government must take it really seriously. But we should not expect everything from and blame everything on the government. What are the guilds' associations doing about it? I say to the guilds' associations. Why are you silent? If you cannot lower prices—and in some areas you could perhaps do so—every union could at least gather its guilds and ask what they are doing for the people? Why has every commodity 10 different prices? Can the guilds' associations do something about it? [passage omitted]

I have several points of advice. I want to finish as soon as possible, and I am very sorry if I have taken too long. This is my advice: For one thing the middlemen must be eliminated as much as possible. A great part of the high prices are due to middlemen. With some of them we have no choice. Others we can eliminate. Eliminating the middlemen is the first thing. Second is elimination of unnecessary expenses and excess costs. Sometimes the finished price of a commodity is announced. We have to see why it is so. Could we have finished it cheaper? There are many commodities, or at least some commodities, that could be produced at a lower cost. There should be no unnecessary expenses, so as to provide the commodity at a just price. This is another thing. Attention should be paid to these things. Another advisable thing is price control. And there is a way for it. Another thing is with the dear officials, who in all honestly and serenity only think of the future. I tell them this: The future must not cause the neglect of the present. We can reach our future goals when we have control over the present. Neglecting the present might damage the future. I have also talked to a responsible official regarding the present situation. He gave me some hope, about which I will now tell you. We have sufficient wheat. We have, more or less, sufficient wheat in the silos for four or five months supply. He said we have purchased 500,000 tonnes of sugar, which is on its way. It will get here and it will break the prices. He, this responsible official, said—and God willing, it is the case—we intend to distribute food stamps with different monthly prices. One month would be a subsidized price, sugar at 30 tomans and cooking oil at 45 tomans per kilo for example. The next month would be at the finished cost price, for example, sugar at about 100 tomans and a large can of cooking oil at 950 tomans. A decision has been made on this, and God willing, I hope it will be implemented so as to reassure the people. I have also been told that a decision has been made for the provision of basic commodities at relatively acceptable prices. Here the Central Bank has responsibilities, and the economic policy makers are responsible. It is not possible to overlook people's basic commodities. With commodities that we can not control and which are used only by a tenth, a fifth, or a third of the people, we can ask these people to be patient. But with basic commodities it is not possible to be patient. There are a dozen of these basic commodities that must be provided at whatever the cost. Officials should not make any excuss. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Criticizes GCC 'Propaganda'

LD0410091894 Tehran IRNA in English 0726 GMT 4 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Oct. 4, IRNA—A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry said that the Arab states of the Persian Gulf region cannot conceal their ties with the Zionist regime by propagandizing against Iran.

The spokesman, speaking to IRNA here Monday, was referring to the recent statement issued by foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, PGCC, issued at the end of their meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher here Friday.

In their statement the PGCC foreign ministers said they would expand economic ties with Washington and announced having removed sanctions imposed on the companies dealing with the Zionist regime.

They also voiced support for the U.S. backing of the settlement of the unfounded claims of the Emirates on the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf to the International Court at The Hague.

The spokesman termed the lifting of the sanctions by Arab states of the Persian Gulf as granting unilateral concessions to the usurpers and said Iran strongly condemned such a measure.

He said that repeated propaganda and statements by the PGCC and the Arab League in support for the unfounded claims of the Emirates was aimed at diverting the attention of public opinion in the Islamic world and in the Middle East of the danger of Zionism.

Gulf Rulers Urged Not To Fall Into 'Mousetrap'

NC3009132094 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Sep 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Will UAE and Others Remember the Past?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, under the leadership of the late Imam Khomeyni, Iran has neither had the intention nor has it fired a single shot towards its neighbors.

Recently, in a friendly spirit, the Islamic Republic extended its good offices to its neighbors and brought them to the negotiating table to solve their territorial or internal disputes. In these efforts Iran succeeded in its mission in the cases of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and various factions of Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The guns are now silent in these countries; Iranian efforts have been hailed on regional and international levels.

As we are observing the Sacred Defense Week, it will not be out of place to mention the eight-year Iraqi-imposed war, which was waged by Saddam Husayn with the moral, political and financial assistance of the oil-rich countries on the other side of the Persian Gulf.

While these shaykhs and kings were pumping money to destroy the newly-born Islamic Republic, the father of the nation, the late Imam, warned them that Saddam would one day turn his guns against them. The rulers of the Persian Gulf did not pay attention to this warning; they had to swallow the bitter pill of their shortsightedness.

Despite the fact that, during the Iran-Iraq war, numerous Iraqi planes were allowed to fly from Kuwait to massacre Iranians, Iran was the first to condemn Iraq for invading Kuwait.

We would like the rulers of the Persian Gulf to listen to the voice of reason, rather than fall for the mousetrap prepared for them by the West, particularly the United States.

Very recently the Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal raised the matter of three Iranian islands, following a communique issued on September 18 by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council which appealed to Iran to, "allow the World Court to settle the territorial dispute." In his last Friday prayer sermon, the Judiciary Head, Ayatollah Yazdi, once more made it clear that "nobody must even imagine that he can question the sovereignty of Iran" over the Greater and Lesser Tonb islands. Iran accepts the fact that there may be some misunderstanding in the case of Abu Musa, for which it is prepared to sit at the negotiating table. In fact, negotiations were in process when the UAE discontinued with no clear reason.

Surprisingly, the Saudis have a territorial dispute with all their neighbors, whether it be Bahrain, Qatar, Yemen, Kuwait or Oman. Riyadh cannot settle its territorial disputes with its neighbors, while it expects Iran to solve "a dispute" which does not even exist.

The UAE and others must remember that the U.S.-led West is trying to push them into a confrontation with the Islamic Republic. This would justify the sale of weapons to the Arabs and the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf.

Iran wishes friendly and cordial relations with all its neighbors on the basis of mutual respect. We expect the countries, of the Persian Gulf to look at the interests of our region rather than the interests of the West.

Ayatollah Yazdi was correct in reminding us that the eight-year imposed war made it clear that Iran's territorial integrity cannot be threatened by global arrogance.

We expect the UAE and our other southern neighbors to remember the past.

Saudi Arabia Seen 'on Brink' of Changes

NC0310122694 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 26 Sep 94 p 12

[Commentary by Hasan Fathi: "Saudi Arabia on the Brink of Fundamental Changes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For quite some time it has been clear that Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Saudi monarch, is ailing and will sooner or later make his exit from this world.

Under such circumstances, the Saudi security forces have launched an extensive campaign to arrest opponents and many clerics, university professors, and Islamists have been taken into custody. According to the Saudi Embassy in Beirut, the aim of these arrests is to establish security and stability in the country.

Even though the security forces have arrested these persons to prevent unrest, there is another factor that can fan differences and exacerbate the situation.

The issue of a successor for Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz can further aggravate the differences in the Saudi ruling party and create a new situation.

In view of its perception of Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, the United States would prefer him to be Fahd's successor. It was for this reason that the U.S. delegation that recently visited Saudi Arabia officially conveyed to the Saudi echelons that the White House considers Sa'ud al-Faysal better than the others.

The ailing Saudi king is reported to be paralyzed and is not able to name a successor for himself as he has differences with his brothers. At times 'Abdallah is referred to as a successor to Fahd, but due to the differences that cropped up between the two, the king is still without an heir apparent.

If Sa'ud al-Faysal becomes the king, the government will pass out of the hands of Fahd's family and into the hands of Faysal's family. Saudi Arabia will not experience any problems on the international level. This is because Sa'ud al-Faysal has been the foreign minister for many years and is well aware of the nuances of Riyadh's foreign policy.

If during this period Fahd breathes his last, the news would not be announced until a successor is found for him who would be endorsed by the White House. This is because the situation in Saudi Arabia is important for the United States and the world and Washington would not want this country to be plunged into anarchy and chaos.

Thus, despite its slogans of upholding human rights, the United States continues to close its eyes to the overt violations of human rights in Saudi Arabia and even supports the country's regime.

The fact that the United States sent a delegation to Saudi Arabia before Fahd's demise is because the United States wishes to see peace and security in Saudi Arabia in tandem with irregular export of oil at low prices. In any case, whoever assumes power—even if he has the support of the White House—will still have some opponents who will sing different tunes and seek to foment trouble.

Lifting of Arab Boycott on Israel Criticized

NC0110092494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 1 Oct 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] announced after their meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in New York on the sidelines of the annual UN General Assembly session that they will lift part of the commercial and oil sanctions against the Zionist regime. The GCC foreign ministers also announced that their respective countries will also remove the sanctions announced by the Arab League against those Western companies that have trade relations with Israel.

According to political observers, these measures by the GCC show a lack of central decisionmaking in the Arab world more than anything else. Following the 1965 war between the Arabs and the Zionist regime, the Arab League announced oil sanctions in protest against those Western countries that gave political and military support to Israel. All those Western countries involved in commercial dealings with the Zionist regime or that invested in the occupied areas were boycotted.

The GCC's decision to revoke the economic embargo against the Zionist regime and Western countries that have commercial relations with this regime shows how far the central decisionmaking in the Arab community, which was at its peak in the sixties and seventies, has declined.

One of the most important and destructive consequences of the oil war in the Arab world is that it caused an unprecedented division among Arab countries and eroded the central decisionmaking process. Similarly, the oil war provided an opportunity for the Zionist regime—which took advantage of the hostility and hatred among the Arab countries with Western support—to consolidate its despotic existence in the region.

There is no doubt that the individual approach by the Arab countries toward the Zionist regime during the compromising talks and the violation by some of them of the sanctions against the usurpist Jerusalem regime gave the Zionist regime the opportunity to implement its plots in the Middle East.

Finance Minister Meets Italian Treasury Minister

LD0310221594 Tehran IRNA in English 2157 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Madrid, Oct. 3, IRNA—Iranian Minister of Finance and Economy, Morteza Mohammad-Khani, in a meeting here today with Italian Minister of the Treasury, Lamberto Dini, said the national development plans had helped to promote Iran's industrial output especially in the petrochemical and steel sectors.

In the meeting which was held on the sidelines of the World Bank session, he said the Islamic government would certainly be able to fullfil its obligations in the course of the second 5-year development plan and will be in a position to fullfil new obligations that may arise in the course of the plan.

The Iranian minister indicated to the Italian official that the Islamic Republic had settled all outstanding accounts or agreed on their settlement with all Italian business partners.

He also called on the Italian minister to use his good offices for ensuring the return to normalcy of trade relations between financial and monetory agencies in Iran and Italy.

Mohammad-Khani also called on the Italian minister of treasury to try to commit the World Bank to offer realistic aid to needy nations without regard to political considerations.

The Italian minster of treasury expressed pleasure at hearing news of Iran's economic progress and welcomed broadening of relations between the two countries.

He said Iran's progress in every area benefits not solely the Iranians but also the regional countries as well as the entirety of Europe.

He said in view of the good industrial potential in Iran, Italian entrepreneurs are very interested to make investments in the country.

The Italian official observed that he is personally opposed to seeing the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund used as a political weapon by certain of their big share holders which, he said, is defamatory to their good repuation.

He said he had previously expressed his concern to the World Bank officials and that he would bring up the matter with European officials later on.

Commerce Ties With Kuwait Discussed

LD0310075994 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 3 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA—Deputy Commerce Minister Hoseyn Noqreh-Kar Shirazi voiced Iran's readiness to upgrade economic and commercial ties with Kuwait to the extent that will guarantee interests of the two countries.

He made the remark in a meeting with Kuwaiti deputy minister for commerce and industries here Saturday afternoon during which the two sides discussed expansion of bilateral commercial relations.

Shirazi referred to the setting up of exhibitions as means to prepare the ground for the expansion of relations and expressed hope that taking part in international fairs in either countries would promote mutual ties.

Al-Wahib suggesed that Iran and Kuwait should remove obstacles in way of bilateral ties by preparing a scheduled program including proposals of the two sides.

He further expressed hope that by exchange of views and following up of the agreements already reached between the two countries, bilateral economic and commercial relations would further expand.

Trade Cooperation Discussed With Indian Ambassador

LD0210220294 Tehran IRNA in English 2132 GMT 2 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 2, IRNA—Indian Ambassador to Iran Sidhaarth Singh here today in a meeting with Secretary-General of Iranian Chamber of Commerce Shams Ardakani, called for establishment of a joint Iranian and Indian Chamber of Commerce to expand bilateral trade ties.

Singh referred to the Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's upcoming visit to India and said that the project of transferring Iranian natural gas to India will be among the topics to be discussed between President Rafsanjani and the Indian high ranking authorities.

Ardakani in reply, referred to the lack of commerce information between Iran and India and said that the private sectors of the two countries should direct their efforts to remove the obstacles in their bilateral contacts.

He also expressed hope that the trade relations between Tehran and New Delhi would expand both in public and private sectors.

Consular Agreements Signed With Turkmenistan

LD0110174194 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 1 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct. 1, IRNA—Iran and Turkmenistan inked two agreements in Ashgabat on Friday to facilitate issuance of visas for traders and drivers, and residential permits for industry owners and merchants.

The agreements were signed at the end of the first border consular commission by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal, Parliamentary and Consular Affairs, Manouchehr Mottaki and Turkmen Foreign Minister Hakverdi Atayev.

Mottaki on Saturday met Iranians merchants based in Turkmenistan and after surveying their problems briefed them on the facilities to be provided.

He referred to the "excellent" bilateral political and economic ties between the two countries and expressed hope that economic cooperation would further expand once the new agreements are implemented.

National Security Council Figure on War Resolutions

NC0110172894 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Sep 94 p 4

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Dr. Hasan Rowhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), by unidentified RESALAT correspondent in Tehran—date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [RESALAT] How many articles of Resolution 598 have been implemented and what remains unimplemented?

[Rowhani] Some of the articles in the resolution have been implemented and some have not. For example, the issue of the return of POWs has not been fully implemented. Even now there are a number of Iraqi POWs in Iran and vice versa. Iraq claims that all Iranian POWs have been returned to Iran. However, on the basis of the documents we have, which include television footage, audio recordings from the radio, newspaper photographs, and names of individuals from Iraqi News Agency telexes, we believe that nearly 5,000 POWs have not yet returned to Iran. We want the Iraqis to give us a convincing response so that we can also release the Iraqi POWs.

One section of the resolution pertains to the demarcation of parts of the border and the setting up of a technical committee, which has not yet been implemented.

Article 6 of the resolution, which stipulates that the United Nations should identify the aggressor, was implemented. In 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991] the aggressor was officially named. The secretary general consulted an impartial group and announced that Iraq was responsible for initiating the war.

Article 7, which requires the United Nations to arrange for the reconstruction of war damage in both countries, has not been implemented. The UN secretary general should convene a conference and invite governments to offer financial assistance.

Article 8 of the resolution relates to the security of the region, but it has not been implemented due to the situation in Iraq. For the purpose of security in the Persian Gulf, a conference involving eight countries—namely Iran, Iraq, and the six countries of the southern Persian Gulf—should be convened so that a plan for regional security can be implemented.

No provision has been made in the resolution for war reparations, as it only mentions identification of the aggressor. However, from the legal point of view, when the initiator of a war has been identified, naturally he should pay war reparations. In this case this is Iraq, which should therefore be made to pay for the direct and indirect losses inflicted during the war. According to Plan and Budget Organization estimates, this comes to approximately a trillion dollars.

[RESALAT] How do you assess Iran's political and military position in the region?

[Rowhani] The Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys the greatest stability and is in a superior position to that of its neighbors. There is not a single other country in the region that is as stable as Iran. In addition, the Persian

Gulf is an important waterway, and Iran is the most powerful and important country with the longest coastline on this waterway. There is no doubt that foreign powers are present in this region not in order to establish security, but rather to obtain cheaper oil, dominate these countries further, and sell them armaments.

At the current juncture, the Islamic Republic of Iran—due to its independence and steadfastness—has the most important role in establishing security in the region. Despite U.S. efforts to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iran's prominent and growing role in various international organizations continues. An outstanding example of this was Iran's presence at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. Iran has also had a notable and active presence in sessions of the Islamic countries and enjoys extensive political clout and dynamism among regional and neighboring countries. Iran's role in the stability and security of the region has become clear to all. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] Could you elaborate on the role of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani during the war?

[Rowhani] One of the individuals who had to sustain a heavy burden during the years of our holy defense was Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Of course, he tried not to appear too conspicuously on the war front. This was because if the enemy were to observe that he was not in Tehran, they would have realized that there was an important program scheduled for the front. Therefore, whenever he visited the front for certain operations, much care was exercised.

For example, it was arranged that Hashemi-Rafsanjani should attend the Majles session in the morning and speak for a few minutes and then go to the front, so that the next day, when he was not present in Tehran, his brief interview could be broadcast so that the enemy would not notice his absence from Tehran. Hashemi-Rafsanjani frequently visited the front and even went far forward toward the battle lines. [passage omitted]

In general, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's support, active presence on the front, and efforts to coordinate Islamic combatants played a very fundamental role in our victories in those days.

Guards Corps Commander on Struggle in Mideast

NC3009160294 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Sep 94 pp 1-2

[Report on a monthly address to the Islamic Engineers' Association by Major General Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in Tehran on 24 September]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "The Middle East will be the venue for clashes between the greater powers and we should be ready and able," Major General Mohsen Reza'i last night told the monthly session of the Islamic Engineers' Association.

Analyzing the future, with the debut of new world powers and Iran's position in international balances, Reza'i said: With the formation of a unified Europe against the United States and the emergence of powerful countries in East Asia such as the PRC, India, and Japan, the Middle East will be the venue for clashes among the greater powers to ensure their own interests. In such circumstances, if we are not prepared, we will be unable to defend our independence, security, and our interests.

He said: The United States is already consolidating its presence in the Persian Gulf. Iran is the only power that can create a balance of power in the region and prevent the outbreak of war. He predicted that in view of the changes in the nature of the international powers, the Middle East would witness a major war in 30 to 40 years.

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps referred to the objectives of the enemies of Islam during the [Iran-Iraq] war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: At the outset of the aggression by Iraq against Iran, many countries entered the arena on Saddam's behalf. The United States, the Soviet Union, most of the European countries, and the regional reactionary countries united against us and each one pursued specific objectives. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere in his speech, Reza'i stressed that the defense structure of our Armed Forces should be strengthened: We should think about our defense. Our defense structure cannot be strengthened without a prospering economy.

Asked if the morale of the basijis [Mobilization Front members] will be undermined if they participate in economic activities, Reza'i said: The Hezbollah forces are like all the other sections of our society who are affected by the prevailing atmosphere. If they are in a jehadi atmosphere they will be selfless and self-sacrificing. If they live a luxurious and extravagant lifestyle, they will be undermined.

He added: If the basijis are motivated by the wish to liberate themselves from economic dependence on the enemy, they will enter the fray in the economic sphere. They will not lose their basiji morale; they will be an effective factor in liberating the country from economic dependence on foreigners. [passage omitted]

Regarding the use of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps surplus for construction purposes, Reza'i stated: The Corps has taken over the building of the great Karkheh Dam, which will irrigate 200,000 hectares of land in Dasht-e 'Abbas and Dasht-e Shush in Khuzestan Province. Mohsen Reza'i described the participation of the Hezbollah forces in economic affairs as a very worthy venture and said: One of the sources of pride for the fourth Majles is that it facilitated the participation of the Hezbollah forces in economic affairs. This has greatly helped the Hezbollah forces as well as the country's economy.

He described the safeguarding of the gains of the Islamic revolution and the preservation of security as the most important mission of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. He said the Corps would not get involved in political games and asserted: The Corps seeks to strengthen the bases of the Velayat-e Faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] and to preserve the gains of the revolution, which gives its task a political bias. But the Corps will never enter into political altercation. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said Facing 'Humiliation, Disgrace' in Haiti

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[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The unrest and fairly extensive violence in Haiti found the U.S. forces deployed there facing numerous problems. The killing of civilian Haitians has resulted in local people showing more hatred and fury toward the forces stationed in Haiti.

These circumstances led the U.S. Defense Department to announce that U.S. Marines would be evacuated as of today. Based on these officials' remarks, the U.S. Marines would gradually be replaced by another military force made up mostly of Americans.

This replacement of forces and change in military assignments will play no significant role in creating peace and calm in Haiti. Accordingly, Washington issued another ultimatum on resorting to force again and warned against any confrontation of the forces stationed in Haiti.

The prevailing conditions in Haiti mean that it can be said that this time too, U.S. extraterritorial military operations have brought massive humiliation and disgrace on Washington's echelons, especially as the United States intended to score a series of victories in these operations so as to overshadow its past defeats in Somalia.

The slogan of the implementation of democracy and the return of the legitimate president to Haiti could not disguise the main U.S. objectives in the Caribbean. The U.S. forces encountered vehement popular opposition when they entered the country.

There was another problem in the path of the U.S. forces in Haiti. It lay in the American forces not being dispatched to this country within the framework of a UN peacekeeping force. This resulted in Washington getting blamed for the clashes and killings in Haiti, a responsibility from which the United States is seeking to extricate itself through various means.

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